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TEMUGIN,

AFTERWARDS SURNAMED

GENGHIS KAN.

AN HISTORICAL ROMANCE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF "AMRAM," &c.

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IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

1944-31

LONDON:

JOHN SPENCE, YORK STREET, STRAND.

1842.

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LONDON:
PRINTED BY MUNRO AND CONGREVE, 26, DUKE STREET,
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

TEMUGIN,

AFTERWARDS SURNAMED GENGHISKAN.

AN EASTERN STORY.

KOLA sent the following letter to Altoun, by the messenger who was despatched with orders for the return of the troops.

"MY DEAR ALTOUN,

"With infinite pleasure I have learnt that orders are dispatched for the return of the troops into their own country. The messenger that conveys this, will likewise bear the tidings of peace to Altoun and the army. I congratulate thee in having participated, under the auspices

of the skilful and renowned Temugin, in the splendid victories which have led to a glorious peace for our country.

"How will Altoun be surprised and delighted to hear that his illustrious friend is to be rewarded with the beauteous daughter of the Khan. My heart rejoices at this prospect of future happiness for them both;—I am warmly attached to the fair princess, and so is Altoun to the valiant Temugin; and the news I send will afford him the same satisfaction and pleasure as I have experienced myself.

"For a considerable time past I suspected that my exalted friend, the daughter of our mighty Khan, felt a tender esteem for Temugin; but I was careful not to reveal my suspicions to any one; as I apprehended that a knowledge of the fact might have proved of dangerous consequence to both. Happily the danger is now over, which at an earlier period might have implicated them, had their attachment been discovered; and now preparations will shortly be made to celebrate their union. Will not that event be of great benefit to

Altoun, as his illustrious friend will then be next to the Khan in power and dignity?

"Where will Kola be? Will Altoun still look with kind regard upon her; or, as his fortune rises, aspire to one of higher rank? I will not harbour such thoughts of Altoun, the generous and the brave, as to apprehend that he will withdraw his love from Kola, should fortune place him on a loftier height. He will be Altoun still, and look with kind regard on Kola as before; or she greatly does mistake. Soon I shall expect to see him, and hear from his own mouth whether I am still dear to him.

"I will conclude in these words, as the messenger is ready to depart, 'Altoun's presence here will be welcome to his

"KOLA.'"

It was not yet generally known at court, that the Khan intended to give his daughter to Temugin; but those who had an opportunity of making observations, now suspected that such would ultimately be the case.

"What is the meaning of all this?" enquired

Hakem, of Mangu. "I have been absent from court for a short period, and on my return I find that Temugin is continually at the palace, and in the company of the princess, who smiles upon him as a lover, and he speaks to her without the smallest ceremony or restraint, even when the Khan himself is present. Surely the mighty lord of Oriental Tartary does not sanction love between his daughter and the leader of his troops? Is Temugin a proper match for the daughter of the Khan?"

"I think not," answered Mangu; "but I suspect that such an alliance is in contemplation. I have but recently returned here myself, yet I have already heard the Khan drop some expressions, which give me little reason to doubt that he actually does intend to bestow the princsss on him, who was once a suppliant orphan from Mogul; but who now stands near to the throne."

"How fortune smiles on some," exclaimed Hakem. "This Temugin, an adventurer from another land, may one day be our ruler, should he wed the daughter of the Khan. A bold ad-

venturer he has been I must confess, and no small share of skill and valour has he shewn. Shall we at length be doomed to bow before this fortunate Mogul? The thought is far from pleasing to me."

"Temugin is not yet seated on a throne," observed Mangu, "and perchance he never may; even if allied to one. The Khan yet lives in perfect health, and long may live. In time he may dread to have the aspiring Temugin so near, that one bold step may place the latter in his stead; and one bold effort hurl the former down."

"We must not neglect to watch the motions of this favourite of fortune," continued Mangu, "and as opportunity offers, insinuate by degrees to the Khan, that imminent danger may arise to himself from too much power and influence being possessed by Temugin. If once suspicion is aroused in the mind of the Khan, he may become apprehensive and jealous of the great and successful adventurer; but at present we must use dissimulation, and conceal our designs. Temugin is not devoid of penetration, he is cool

and deliberate in his measures, as well as firm and determined. We must be wary in our plans, or he will detect them before they are matured. He already rises superior to us all, and if we chance to lose the favour of the Khan we must retire at once from court, and leave Temugin in possession of all the influence there."

"For the latter reason," intimated Hakem, "it will be prudent for us at present to go with the stream, and not presume openly to utter a word in prejudice of the favourite Temugin; but rather pay an outward show of homage to the rising sun."

"Exactly so," rejoined Mangu; "it is the only way of attaining the object we have in view; for should we now in the full blaze of Temugin's success, discover any aversion to him, or even treat him with the slightest disrespect, the Khan may take it as an affront to himself, and we might in consequence lose his confidence altogether, and never more regain his favour; yet, mark what I say, Hakem:—after an interval of profound peace, the victorious

exploits for which the adventurer has become renowned, will gradually fade from memory. His skill and conduct in war will not be required, and he will be less thought of. The tide of popularity at present sets strongly in his favour, and we must wait until the tide begins to ebb; in due time it will cease to flow."

It was not long before it became publicly known that Temugin was to wed the daughter of the Khan, with the full approbation of her father; and that the ceremony would speedily take place. Those who duly considered the high character and exalted worth of the illustrious commander, and the many signal and important services he had rendered to the state in times of peril, thought him deserving of the princess; but it created much jealousy in some of the principal lords, besides Mangu and Hakem, who beheld their own rank and consequence eclipsed thereby. Upon the whole, however, the news of the contemplated alliance gave general satisfaction, for Temugin was extremely popular. He had added greatly to the strength and glory of the state, by the

splendid victories he had achieved; and it was considered that he had been the chief means of its attaining so conspicuous a station amongst the nations of the east; nor was it forgot that he claimed descent from a dynasty of princes; and he was therefore judged in all respects worthy of a princess for his consort.

The Khan told his daughter that it gave him the highest satisfaction in reflecting that he should promote her happiness in bestowing her upon Temugin. She was going to be united to one with whose character they had been long acquainted, and of course could form a proper estimate. She was not doomed to become a sacrifice, through policies of state, to a prince whose chief recommendation would be his ruling over extensive realms; but she would give her hand to the object of her own free unbiassed choice, to one well known to her; and whose actions had made his name renowned.

"Happy mayest thou consider thyself, my daughter," continued the Khan, "for too often those in thy station of life cannot be allowed to consult their own wishes in a matrimonial con-

nection. Happy, thrice happy, art thou in the love of Temugin, worthy descendant from a princely line, who merits all my confidence and favour; and whom I can now reward for all his signal services and devoted fidelity. My daughter is happy in the affection of Temugin, and happy in her father's approbation of her choice. As soon as the preparations are completed, her nuptials shall be celebrated with the splendour due to her rank. Be thou grateful, my daughter, for thy happy lot."

"I am most grateful," replied the princess. "I am filled with gratitude to my father for thus consulting his daughter's inclination. I do indeed consider myself most happy that he has sanctioned my choice. A noble mind does Temugin possess, and famed and respected is his name. I am confident that he will merit all my regard, and be ever devoted to the interest of my father."

"I am satisfied, my daughter," said the Khan, "and trust thou wilt enjoy felicity in thy union with Temugin. Bright is the prospect before thee."

How pleasing now were the hours that passed between the princess and Temugin. In a few short days the court would witness their union.

Fly swift ye moments until the auspicious morn arrives.

War is over, and peace smiles around.

It seems the harbinger of that important day, which is to give the beauteous daughter of the Khan to him she loves; to him who conquered all her father's foes; to Temugin, the skilful, valiant, and renowned; to him, the hero with honour and with glory crowned.

Now busy preparations employ the attendants at court, and indicate the splendour of the approaching nuptials. Bright indeed the prospects seem, and no clouds appear; but in the greatest calms a storm may rise.

The stately ship that glides majestic on the unruffled deep with all its sails outspread, may touch against a hidden rock; or adverse winds may unexpected blow, and drive it on a dangerous shoal. Let the pilot then in time beware, nor rely too much on halcyon seas, and

kindly breezes. Let him not be unmindful of his charge, though no apparent danger's near.

Thou art the stately ship, O Temugin, that smoothly glides upon the calm unruffled deep; and thy good Genius must be the careful pilot; for in the watery vast abyss are hidden rocks; and over the gently swelling surface a furious storm may sudden rise.

The Khan beheld with great satisfaction the preparations going on for the approaching nuptial ceremony; and Temugin cried out in transport to the princess:—"How sweet, and blissful are the hours I now enjoy, in having thy company, free from all officious interference. Not long since we were cautious of being observed by any one, who might disclose the secret of our mutual affection. Now we have nothing to apprehend, and in a few days I shall receive my beloved princess from her sovereign father's hands."

About this time came a present to Temugin, from the grateful Alkansor, and his amiable Fetmah. This noble pair had been united soon after Alkansor's return from captivity; and

having heard that hostilities had ceased between the Tartars, and their foes; and that peace was likely to ensue, they judged it a favorable opportunity of sending a proof of their gratitude to the renowned leader, for his generous conduct in procuring the liberation of Alkansor. They, therefore, found means of having conveyed without delay, to Temugin, a magnificent sabre, of the most exquisite workmanship; the hilt was of the purest gold, inlaid with rare and costly gems, of great value. At the same time a pair of rich bracelets was sent to Altoun, as a present for his fair Kola.

Temugin received with the sabre, the following letter.

"From the banks of the Euphrates, to the great Tartar leader, illustrious Temugin, greeting:—

"We have taken the first opportunity of having conveyed to thee a sabre of choice manufacture, which we beg thy acceptance of, as a small token of gratitude from us. Alkansor and Fetmah, though far distant from

thee, can never forget thy noble behaviour to them.

"We wish thee, O renowned chief, uninterrupted health and prosperity.

"From thy grateful friends,

"ALKANSOR AND FETMAH."

"You have shewn your gratitude, ye noble pair," exclaimed Temugin, as he finished reading the letter, and surveyed the magnificent sabre; "but what occasion was there to send such a costly gift to me? The mind of Temugin was satisfied, and he wanted no other reward. Could I do otherwise than treat with courtesy the graceful, amiable Fetmah, who came such a distant journey to me, and implored my influence to set her beloved Alkansor free? Could I do less than grant the prayer of the lowly bending suppliant fair? Nor could you, O brave and generous Alkansor, and noble, graceful Fetmah, restrain it seems your gratitude to thanks. The favour that I performed for you, with satisfaction to myself, dwelt in your grateful minds. The costly gems which

enrich this sabre, are valueless to me, except for the givers' sake. On great occasions it now shall grace my side, a token of gratitude and friendship from a noble pair, whom I esteem.

" Hereafter fate may so ordain, that I may lead my conquering troops as far as famed Euphrates stream, and behold it with the Tigris join. Then would I say, near these parts reside a noble and illustrious pair; Fetmah, and Alkansor named. They are your leader's friends. Let them respected be. Let no steps of armed bands, with hostile intent, approach their dwelling; no inroad be made upon their fertile lands; there let their flocks and herds securely roam. Let Fetmah and Alkansor's wealth, and all that they possess, be sacred from the waste of war. Not theirs alone, but all their kindreds and their friends. So may their fertile lands, untrod by hostile feet, with verdure smile; so may their numerous flocks and herds increase; and the noble Fetmah and Alkansor, with all their kindred and their friends, be surrounded still with affluence and peace. . .

" Ye noble, grateful, generous pair, long may

ye undisturbed and happy dwell, upon your native lands; your famed Euphrates fertile banks.

"Here comes my princess, decked with jewels, herself the brightest jewel of the whole.

"O daughter of the Khan, how well dost thou become that splendid dress; but thy rich robe, with precious gems adorned, dazzles not my sight as thy own beauty does.

"My sweet princess, is that intended for thy nuptial dress, that with such costly jewels shines?"

The princess intimated that it was a part of it, and she had come to ask Temugin's opinion. Did it please him?

"It is most magnificent," answered Temugin, "and worthy of the daughter of the Khan. Joined to her own grace and beauty, she would shine like the bright morning star that sparkled in the eastern sky.

"If Temugin compares me to the morning star," observed the princess, with a smile, "I may with greater reason compare him to the

more refulgent orb of day that pours the full blaze of glory all around."

"Thou outdoest me as much in comparisons," said Temugin, "as thou outdoest most of thy sex in grace and beauty; but I must stop thy panegyrics on myself.

"Temugin has a favour to ask of his beloved princess.

"When I first to Oriental Tartary came, and presented myself at the palace of the Khan, an officer of thy father's court readily gave me admittance, and treated me with great attention, though I was a stranger to him. That officer has since retired, owing to some offence he chanced to give to that courtier lord, Mangu, who is so much in thy father's favour. A son he had, whom I promoted for the kind treatment I experienced from his parent. That son a prisoner was made in a skirmish with the foes; and has since, I hear, been married to a wealthy Fair, and now resides in affluence in a distant land. Brave he was in war, but perhaps his heart is not so generously disposed towards his parent as it ought to be; or his wife may

restrain his hand from pouring some of her treasure towards his own paternal home, or distance may make it hazardous to send so far. Be that as it may, the parent is by no means affluent. He has a daughter—if not two. Two, I think he has—I know he has two daughters, for now I recollect that I once asked the question in a slight, but friendly way.

"Cannot my princess do something for one, or both, of these daughters, belonging to the worthy officer, who formerly treated me with such kindness, when I came an orphan and a stranger to the Court of Tartary? Can she not provide for them amongst her female friends who roll in wealth and state, and swell the pomp of court on great occasions? A word from my princess, and their fortune is made."

"It shall be done," replied the princess; the daughters of this worthy officer shall not be forgot. It is enough that their father was courteous to Temugin when he came first to Oriental Tartary. I have a slight recollection of the officer, but knew not the cause of his retirment. How little could he think that the

young adventurer would bring such splendour to the state—that he would become so great a name, and reach to such a height of glory and of fame.

"Let that stop thy tongue from being so lavish in the praise of Temugin." He impressed a kiss upon the lips of the princess, and resumed:—

"The name of the officer to whom I have alluded is Malek. He is now stricken in years; and it will cheer his declining age to hear that his daughters have been provided for, through the interposition of my princess."

"Rely upon it, I will not forget them," repeated the princess. "But what splendid sabre is that?" added she.

"How the jewels sparkle on its hilt. From whence did Temugin procure it? Is it one of the trophies that he gained in war? I do not recollect ever to have seen it before. Surely it has never been suspended from his side; nor does it even seem to me to be of Tartar workmanship. Nevertheless, it well becomes the Tartar leader, for none but the greatly brave

would venture to display a weapon of such value. It would attract the notice of a daring foe, and might excite his avarice, as well as ambition, to become its captor."

"No daring foe shall ever wrest it from my grasp," exclaimed Temugin, "but know, my fair princess, this costly sabre was not won in war. It came a present to me from a distant part; a token of friendship from the brave and generous Alkansor, who dwells upon Euphrates' banks. Hear the story:—

"Alkansor was by thirst of glory fired to leave his peaceful home, and join the numerous foes who made an inroad into Tartary. In action against the troops I led, Alkansor wounded fell, whilst bravely fighting in the field, and was discovered on the following morn, and made a captive by our men. For him, the captive, a noble lady whom he loved, a journey took from famed Euphrates' banks, even to the camp in a hostile land, and begged admittance to my tent.

"She appeared before me, the noble lady, Fetmah, named; and implored my influence

to liberate her brave Alkansor. I sent, without delay, a messenger to the Khan, and besought him to release the noble captive. He was released forthwith at my request; and quick to his native land returned, and her he loved. Now behold his gratitude. This costly present, this superb sabre, he has sent to me."

The princess admired it much. It proved that Alkansor had a grateful and a generous mind. She had heard of him before by the letter which Kola had received from Altoun.

"The friendship of the generous and brave is dear to me," said Temugin.

THE nuptial preparations are finished.—
The day has come!—

Brightly shone the sun upon the morning of that day, when the fair princess of Tartary gave her hand to the illustrious Temugin, in the presence of the Khan, and a numerous assemblage of ladies and grandees of the highest quality, attired in all the gorgeous splendour of Eastern magnificence.

The sun that in the morning brightly shone upon the pompous scene, became obscured before the approach of noon. Dark lowering clouds were seen to gather in the sky, and soon a furious tempest raged.

Not long the fury of the tempest lasted; and

again the sun burst forth, and glowed with brighter lustre than at first.

The lowering clouds had disappeared; but still the winds at intervals with violence blew, though the sun resplendent shone.

Towards the close of day, calm and serene appeared the sky. In unclouded majesty the sun began to set, and long its departing rays cast their shadows round.

There were some who augured that the foregoing circumstances presaged events that were to come. They predicted, in secret, that Temugin would at first enjoy happiness from his alliance with the daughter of the Khan, and that the highest prosperity and honour would attend him; but that dark mischiefs would at length be gathering, and suddenly obscure his bright prospects; that distrust and discord would arise, and might involve him in the most imminent danger; that a furious contest would rage for a time, and spread a gloom over the court. Farther they would not venture to predict; but left it for time to unfold.

The changes in the sky on their nuptial day,

gave little disturbance, however, to the wedded pair. The lowering clouds, the tempest, and the violent winds, at intervals, were unheeded by them.

The brave Altoun received the intelligence that the Khan intended to bestow his daughter on Temugin, with the most heartfelt satisfaction; and the troops exulted at the idea of the great alliance for their conquering leader, whom they thought deserving of the highest honours that their Khan and country could bestow.

As soon as Altoun had led the army back, he hastened to court, and tendered his respectful and sincere congratulations to Temugin and the princess. He was treated with the same friendly distinction by the great leader as formerly; who told him that as hostilities were entirely over, he would have ample opportunity of enjoying the company of his fair Kola.

Altoun now received a small packet, which, on opening, he found to contain the rich bracelets which Fetmah and Alkansor had sent to him, as a present for Kola. He eagerly sought the latter, and, displaying the bracelets, said;

"Accept, dear Kola, a present from the noble lady Fetmah. These will not be less acceptable to thee, for coming through my hands. From the banks of the Euphrates they have been sent to me, a gift for her I love. In the first place our thanks are due to Temugin; for it was through him that the lady Fetmah, and the brave Alkansor, heard there was a Kola at the court of Tartary, whom Altoun loved."

Kola admired the bracelets, and accepted them with pleasure; intimating that their value was enhanced by the manner in which they came to her. It proved the high opinion that the generous Alkansor, and his amiable Fetmah, entertained for Altoun; and their gratitude to the Tartar leader, with whose friendship they saw he was honoured.

"My dear Kola has passed a fine compliment in a few words," exclaimed Altoun, "but what does she think of the invitation contained in this letter, which I received with the present from the noble Chaldeans? Now war is over, and there may be a long interval of peace, I would willingly seize the opportunity of paying a visit

to the banks of the famed Euphrates; but I do not like to leave my Kola behind. It would be a long and distant journey through various countries; and, if I have no friendly companion, I may wander far about, and longer than I wish in distant regions stray."

"Then remain, brave Altoun, with thy Kola here," said she, smiling.

"Or take my Kola with me," added he, "and let her see the regions beyond her native Tartary.

"Kola, dost thou admire the daughter of the Khan, and Temugin?"

"Well thou knowest that I do. Temugin has been thy friend, and the princess has been mine; and long I hope they will enjoy mutual felicity, and continue their friendship to us both."

"A few words in thy ear then, fair Kola, and let her attend to what I say; for plainly I will speak at once. Temugin has been my friend, and the princess has been thine. Can we do better than follow their example? As Euphrates' stream does with the Tigris join, so let

Altoun's fortune roll with thine. What sayest thou, dear Kola."

A laugh surprised their ears, and stopt reply. Kola felt confused, and Altoun went to the door. It was not closed, and he had spoke loud that the princess and Temugin overheard him, as they happened to be passing near.

"What transcendant eloquence flows from thy mouth, brave Altoun," exclaimed Temugin, still smiling. "Can the fair Kola resist the force of those powerful arguments, which thy love for her inspires thee with? Thy metaphors are grand, and, though far-fetched, they are not inappropriate. As the noble rivers, which thou hast named, would bear down all impediments in their course, so may thy words bear down all objections in the mind of Kola.

"Brave Altoun, thus I say, in unison with thee:—

As Tigris' and Euphrates' streams combine,
So may thy fortune with fair Kola's join.

"My princess," added Temugin, "will speak

in Altoun's behalf to Kola; and use her influence, should his own eloquence be insufficient."

The princess intimated that it would be needless for herself to speak to Kola on the subject; for she already knew her mind; but where was she?

"Kola, where art thou? Come forth, and shew thyself.

"Come, fair Kola, come."

"Come, fair Kola, come," jocosely repeated Temugin. "Come forth, and shew thyself to the daughter of the Khan, and promise her to bestow thy hand without delay upon the brave, the frank, and worthy Altoun. Then to Chaldea's land you may safely stray, and pay a visit to the generous Alkansor and his graceful Fetmah.

"Come, fair Kola, come. I will pass on, and spare thy blushes. Let Altoun stay behind for once; and not follow me as oft through danger he has boldly done."

Brave Altoun, stay behind,
And hear fair Kola's mind.

Temugin went away; and Kola, somewhat confused, made her appearance before the princess.

"My dear Kola," spoke the daughter of the Khan, "I know thy regard for the noble Altoun, and it has my entire approbation. There is no occasion to stand upon the ceremony of consulting me before thy consent is given to him."

The princess hastened to rejoin Temugin, after she had thus spoken to Kola, leaving the latter rather disconcerted at being taken by surprise in this manner.

Altoun had remained silent, secretly enjoying what passed; and now, casting his eyes, with a smile, upon Kola, he intimated that the approbation of both Temugin and the princess was gained at once, without asking it. So much for speaking with openess, and with such energy and feeling that he was overheard.

Kola, recovering a little from her confusion, slightly reprimanded Altoun for raising his voice, at times, to such a lofty pitch that he was almost sure to be overheard when any one was

passing near. It was a thoughtless habit, and might often be the means of his private sentiments becoming public. Could he not have made an allusion to the Tigris and Euphrates, without speaking so loud? It might not inaptly be compared to a sudden storm, that burst upon those noble streams. He spoke as loud as if he had been giving orders to his troops, and wanted the sound of his voice to spread from rank to rank.

"I stand corrected, my dear Kola, cried Altoun, "and acknowledge my error. I must confess that I ought to use a gentler tone in love than war; but I have been longer accustomed to the camp than the court, and that must plead my excuse."

"Altoun is a good soldier, without doubt," observed Kola; "but he would make a rather indifferent courtier. His manners are too open and unguarded. How frequently have I noticed in the course of conversation, when any thing has particularly struck his mind, he has suddenly exalted his voice so highly, that the apartment has echoed to the sound. He should

seriously consider that such a custom might draw the curiosity of others, who were of an inquisitive disposition, and make them acquainted with what he never intended them to know."

"Kola's remarks are just, and for the future, I will endeavour to assimilate myself to the more refined and polished manners of a court, and leave the camp behind."

"Otherwise such an officious busy character as Mangu, for instance, would become acquainted with all thy concerns," continued Kola.

"Mangu!" exclaimed Altoun, at the full extent of his voice, forgetting himself, in the contempt he felt for that courtier, since he had encountered him listening at the door, on a former occasion."

"Mangu!" reiterated Altoun.

Kola and Altoun happened to be outside of the apartment since the princess left them, and on the name of Mangu being now so loudly pronounced, a voice, at a distance, quickly

answered, in a tone of surprise, "What is the matter? Who is it calls so loudly for me?"

Altoun was confounded. He knew it was the haughty Mangu himself, who answered to his name. Kola was frightened, and in a whisper advised Altoun to go instantly to the courtier, and make some excuse; or the latter might be highly offended.

"Was that Altoun who called out my name with such vehemence?" demanded Mangu, advancing to the spot.

Kola quickly retired, and Altoun hastened to meet the courtier, studying an excuse as he went.

Mangu again demanded what made Altoun vociferate his name so loudly; and the latter rather awkwardly accounted for it, by pretending that he was proceeding to tell Kola he himself would go instantly and pay his respects to the noble Mangu, as he must depart early the following morning to give some directions to the troops at a distance; and might lose the opportunity of shewing that deference which

he always wished to pay to one of the noble Mangu's rank and influence.

The courtier's brow became smooth, and though his surprise had been greatly excited, yet his irritation and surprise subsided, at the deference Altoun now pretended to feel for his rank and consequence.

The pride of Mangu was flattered by Altoun's explanation, and he humourously congratulated the latter on the strength of his lungs, which, he observed, might be requisite at the head of troops; but that such a powerful exertion of voice was rather unusual in a palace.

Altoun intimated that his voice was naturally loud.

"That we can plainly see, or rather hear," sarcastically rejoined Mangu.

However the courtier appeared tolerably well satisfied with Altoun's explanation, and engaged him so long in discourse, that the latter had not an opportunity to renew his conversation with Kola, before he was obliged to retire, and attend to other concerns. In his heart he wished the loquacious Mangu had been at the extremity of

Tartary; and condemned himself for a fool, in not keeping his own voice more under restraint.

"Confound that courtier," muttered Altoun, as he retired from the palace, in disappointment; "his eyes and ears are every where. I have no secrets, it is true, that I fear becoming known, but, if I had, it would be hazardous to whisper them even to Kola, in the palace; for I might expect this Mangu to be listening. I never liked him, though I have occasionally paid him an outward shew of respect; but lately I have secretly despised him; and when Kola alluded to such a person as him becoming acquainted with my concerns, it roused my feelings, and I vociferated his name in a loud, scornful tone, without considering where I was; what has happened in consequence, will be a caution to me for the future, to spare my lungs for a proper time and place. I had a hint once or twice before from Kola, not to speak so loud in ordinary conversation, and I cannot conceive how it is that I forget myself so often in that respect. I must endeavour to possess more controul over my feelings,

and check these sudden ebullitions. Here have I lost by my own folly a fair opportunity of obtaining Kola's consent to our union. The princess had signified her approbation at once, and all would have been satisfactorily settled, but for my burst of scorn at the thought of Mangu's conduct, in listening behind the door. It was well, for that matter, he answered so quickly to my loud exclamation, for I was going to add that I heartily despised such a character; that his rank, and consequence, ought to have taught him better than to act the mean degrading part of a listener to private conversation; which was not intended for the hearing of others. If he had heard my invective against him, I should not have met a very pleasant reception at court, whilst he kept it in remembrance, and retained his influence there.

"I must be off early in the morning, and shall be occupied some days in dispatching divisions of the troops to different stations; during all which time, unfortunately, I shall be in suspense about Kola's consent. It occasions such

a delay, besides, in making the proper arrangements.

"It is a confounded business," cried Altoun, in a peevish, and audible tone.

"What now discomposes Altoun," softly exclaimed a person advancing behind him. Altoun turned round, and stared with astonishment; for it was Mangu again, who had followed him to ask a question. He wanted to know if it was Altoun who had passed rapidly along by an unfrequented way at the back of the palace, on the evening subsequent to his march against the enemy, who had made the inroad on a distant part of Tartary. It was a matter which raised his curiosity at the time, and he now wished to ascertain from Altoun himself, whether he really was the person or not."

"It most assuredly was not me," replied Altoun, "for I left not the troops on their march; but the circumstance to which Mangu alludes must have occurred upwards of twelve moons ago."

"True," observed Mangu, "but I have retained it in remembrance; for I had determined

to get to the bottom of that mysterious affair, if possible. I cannot conceive who it really was; for it must have been a person well acquainted with the palace grounds."

Altoun knew nothing about it; and after a few more remarks, the courtier perceiving him eager to get away, made a slight apology for having detained him, and retired.

Altoun went on for some time without giving vent to his thoughts; but in his own mind he afterwards concluded that Mangu must have been watching his motions lately.

At length, looking cautiously around him, as if apprehensive that he might be again overheard, Altoun exclaimed, "I would not have that courtier's restless, inquisitive disposition, about every trifling circumstance that occurs, for all the wealth his forefathers left." Half doubting whether this exclamation also might not be overheard, Altoun moved along with hastier steps; for fancy whispered in his ear, even yet the listening courtier may be near.

In the meantime Kola waited in great suspense for the return of Altoun, as she was very

anxious to learn whether he had been able to frame an excuse to appease Mangu, for pronouncing his name in such a strange and vehement tone; but Altoun did not return to remove her suspense and anxiety. A full hour had elapsed since he left her, and as she knew that he was to depart early in the morning, she became very uneasy. He has not, thought she, been able to make an apology sufficient to satisfy the incensed courtier. The incautious Altoun may now experience a powerful enemy at court.

Should Mangu, in his resentment, complain to the Khan, that Altoun called out the former's name in such a loud and scornful manner, that a part of the palace echoed to the sound, he might be forbid the court, for what would be deemed a wanton insult to one of Mangu's rank and wealth; and disrespect to the Khan himself.

Another hour passed away in these unpleasant apprehensions, when Kola received a message from her lover, that he had been engaged so long in conversation with Mangu that he

was obliged to go from the palace in haste, to attend a part of his duty, which could not any longer be deferred; and he much regretted that he should be absent a few days before he could have the pleasure of seeing her again.

Soon after this, the princess enquired of Kola if Altoun's eloquence had been successful in gaining her consent; and was answered that their conversation had been interrupted by Mangu in an unexpected manner. The princess wished to know how that was. What business had the prying courtier in that part of the palace where Altoun and Kola were engaged in private discourse?

Kola, in candour, confessed that no blame could be imputed to Mangu in this case, for the fault was Altoun's. She had been hinting to him the imprudence of suddenly raising his voice in private discourse; and that without he refrained from the habit, those of an inquisitive disposition would be tempted to listen; as Mangu for instance had done. She had no sooner intimated this, than Altoun in a burst of

scorn reiterated the name of Mangu so loud, that the courtier caught the sound at a considerable distance, and quickly coming forward demanded the cause. Altoun and herself were confounded; and as the courtier was approaching towards them with hasty steps, she retreated, desiring Altoun to make some kind of excuse, if possible, to appease him. She had not seen him since to know the result, for it seemed he had not time to return.

The princess smiled at this recital of Kola's, and advised her not to run the risk of her lover being overheard and interrupted, at their next interview, but to yield her consent without superfluous words. Why could she not have said at once to him:—"Altoun, I know thy worth, and rely upon thy sincere affection; be it as thou hast desired.—Then," observed the princess, "his lofty eloquence would not have been so much exerted. Temugin and myself might not have overheard it, as we were passing to the gardens of the palace; nor would Mangu, soon afterwards, have been roused by the loud

utterance of his name. However, the latter circumstance might be the means of putting Altoun a little more upon his guard, and induce him to keep his sonorous voice under restraint. He certainly appeared to be more of the soldier than the courtier."

Temugin having rejoined the princess and Kola, expressed his regret that Altoun had been obliged to depart so soon after his arrival at court, but assured Kola that he would take care to expedite her lover's return in a few days; and, hereafter, he would have plenty of leisure to enjoy the happiness of her society.

"Thou art kind and considerate, my Temugin," cried the princess, "in promising to hasten the return of Altoun, for the lovers were interrupted in their discourse soon after we left them, and have not seen each other since." She then briefly related the circumstance.

"What a second time, in so short a space, have the words of Altoun burst so loudly forth?" exclaimed Temugin. "Fair Kola," continued he, in a humourous strain, "must learn him by

degrees to modulate his voice in harmony with her own mild tones. Guided by love, and her, brave Altoun, open and sincere, will lay aside the loud martial habits of the hardy soldier, and become as gentle as the well-trained steed to its keeper's hands."

"HERE I am again, my Kola" announced to that lady the return of Altoun, and his appearance before her, after a few days absence. "Now," cried he, "will I profit from the past, and woo thee in a gentle tone.

"My dear Kola, thou hast had time to consider what I said previous to my departure. Thy soldier now is disengaged from other duties. Speak thy mind then at once, and put an end to all farther suspence. Say thou wilt be mine. Delay thy consent no longer. Smiling peace has settled in the land, and Tartar troops are stationed in their tranquil quarters.

"My dear Kola, much wealth has fallen to my share, from the copious spoils we seized in

war. Therefore, thou canst urge no objections, if thou lovest me with sincerity equal to that I feel for thyself. Be candid, be explicit, my Kola. Frankly say, 'Altoun, I will be thine;' and let us fix the day for our union."

"I will speak for her, brave Altoun," answered the princess smiling, as she entered the apartment, unexpected by the lovers. "I have been sent by Temugin, that no unlucky burst of eloquence should again retard thy suit."

"Exalted princess, I thank thee for thy kind condescension."

"Now, Kola, thou canst no longer delay thy consent."

At the suggestion of the princess a day was fixed, to which the blushing Kola gave her assent.

At the appointed time, Altoun and Kola were united;—Temugin and the princess honoring the ceremony with their presence.

On her marriage, the lady Kola resigned her situation as chief attendant to the daughter of the Khan, to whom she had been greatly attached, and by whom she was much esteemed

in return. On this occasion the princess made her some valuable presents, and desired her not to omit appearing at court as often as circumstances would admit.

"I shall always be happy to hear of Kola's welfare," continued the princess, "and she may rely upon a continuance of my friendship. I need not add that I am convinced Temugin will not be backward to render thy Altoun any service in his power, and I heartily rejoice that Kola is happily united to the man of her choice. I wish, in short, that she may enjoy the same happiness in the nuptial state as myself."

Kola expressed her gratitude to the daughter of the Khan, and hoped that she would never meet the slightest interruption to her present happiness with Temugin.

"May no dark intrigues, my dear princess," cried Kola, with much emphasis, "may no secret machinations of jealousy from invidious courtiers, ever cause the slightest coolness between thy illustrious spouse and thy father.

"My dear princess will excuse me for reminding her, that the transcendant merit, and

splendid services of her renowned husband, which have justly raised him so high, may even yet occasion envy to rankle in the minds of some who have influence at court, although outward appearances may be specious and fair. Let not the hints I have dropped to my princess make her uneasy, or disturb for a moment her present happiness, because I have thought it a duty I owed to my exalted friend and benefactress to remind her, on the eve of my departure, that Mangu and Hakem have powerful connections and influence; and I will not hesitate to hint in confidence to her, that I firmly believe, notwithstanding the outward show of respect they have paid of late to her renowned Temugin, they are still by no means friendly disposed towards him. These two potent lords, possessed as they are of high rank and great wealth, have proud and envious dispositions. They are familiar to the Khan, from their long and assiduous attendance at court, and can, therefore, more easily avail themselves of opportunities to drop secret insinuations into the ear of their prince, when inclined to create a prejudice in his mind against

any one to whom they may be unfavourably inclined."

The princess thanked Kola for reminding her that there were some designing characters at the court, and she much regretted the influence they possessed from their hereditary rank, their wealth and connections. She wished they were not so much about the person of the Khan; but trusted that he would repel with indignation any secret insinuation that their envy might prompt them to make against Temugin. At present the tongue of envy durst not presume to vent its spleen, but she would feel more satisfied if her father intimated at once to a certain courtier that so much of his attendance was not needed.

I hope, however, that nothing will disturb the harmony of the court; but I am sorry to part from my Kola, and in her absence will not forget the hints she has dropped. Should she and Altoun decide upon paying a visit to the distant land where Fetmah and Alkansor dwell, let her not fail to see me first: indeed Temugin would doubtless send some message to the noble

pair, probably to invite them here, now all is peace around.

Kola promised to inform the princess as soon as Altoun had made up his mind; and, indeed, he could not depart on such a journey without first obtaining leave, and of course acquainting his renowned friend.

"Farewell for the present, my dear princess, my exalted and generous benefactress."

"No more, my Kola," cried the princess, with emotion. "Farewell, until I see thee again."

As a reward for their past exertions against the enemy, a considerable promotion now took place amongst the officers of the army. As the influence of Temugin had become preponderating, he took care to point out to the Khan those who had the most distinguished themselves, and they received the greater promotion accordingly. In doing this act of justice, no regard was paid to birth, fortune, or connections; and several of the courtiers and persons of rank found that their own friends and relatives had not that advancement in the army which they vainly conceived they had a right to expect. Deep was the umbrage they felt upon the occasion; and one wealthy lord, who had a nephew's interest much at heart, and whom he had ima-

gined would, on his account, have met with higher promotion, could not refrain from expressing his disappointment to Temugin.

"Valiant leader," said the wealthy lord, "I cannot avoid feeling surprise and concern that my nephew has not received the promotion which I expected. Surely my rank ought to have had some influence in favour of so near a relative. I, at least, am well known to thee, and he bears my name; but, perchance, in the great number of officers thou hast pointed out for advancement, my nephew may have escaped thy recollection."

"No one has escaped my attention," observed Temugin, "in the whole list of those who were under my command. I made the most minute enquiry into their respective claims, and after the most impartial investigation of their conduct, I recommended them for promotion according to their merit. Those who had most distinguished themselves by skill, bravery, and zeal, received of course the greater advancement. I mean to cast no imputation against thy nephew when I state that there were others

whose deeds had been more conspicuous than his own—others who had been more active, had endured greater privations, and encountered greater danger under my own eye. Thy nephew has not seen half the service that many others have done; yet he has not been overlooked. He has received promotion, though not in so great a degree as those who were experienced and tried in warfare. It would have been unjust if thy nephew had been placed on the same footing as those hardy veterans who had long services, and many wounds and scars, to plead for them."

"But surely," exclaimed the offended lord, "my own rank ought to have had some weight in procuring higher promotion for my nephew."

Temugin intimated that rank and wealth alone, would have little weight in withstanding the bold and determined attempts of an hostile army.

The haughty lord insisted upon it, that rank and wealth must, and ought to have weight, in every state. He should like to know what maintained armies, or set them in motion, but

wealth, which found the means of supplying so many resources.

"I think that upon cool reflection," remarked Temugin, "it must be admitted, even by thyself, that no injustice has been done to thy relative. He is young in arms. He cannot display the wounds and scars which many have gained in long and bloody conflicts, before he was old enough to wield a sword against the foe."

"He has done his best, I doubt not, since he joined the army of the Khan," muttered the offended lord "and ought to have had greater promotion for the sake of his connections. Many have been raised above him, who were obscurely born; who hardly know their parentage."

Temugin admitted that might be the case; but merit was superior still to birth and parentage.

"Has my nephew no merit then?"

"Had thy nephew greater merit than others, he would have received greater promotion," coolly answered Temugin.

"But how is it," resumed the other, "that

an officer whose rank was below my relative's, is now two degrees higher advanced? There is some cause in that circumstance for me to feel both surprise and vexation; as it seems like a reflection upon my relative, and a slight to myself; I might almost have said an affront to one of my rank. I never heard of any particular act of bravery and skill, that the officer I allude to has displayed. In short, I never heard of his name before, to my recollection, and it has merely come to my knowledge since the late extensive promotion. He is not known at court."

"Well known, however, is that officer to me," retorted Temugin. "Often have I marked his conduct in the hostile field against his country's foes. Listen to what I can relate concerning him, and then tell me if he has undeserved the rank in our army, to which he has been raised."

"This is that officer's story:—

"Early in life he entered into the military service of the Khan, and even in youth he bravely fought and attracted notice. When in

a fierce encounter he had been badly wounded he received a slight promotion. Cured of his wounds, to scenes of danger he quickly returned, and for years he served with no other reward than the consciousness of having performed his duty as a brave soldier. He saw many during the time promoted far above himself who had not encountered half the hardships and dangers he had undergone; many who could not point to a single scar, and some who had not even been engaged in war, but had remained in idle and secure repose, through the influence of their potent friends. A peace came, and then at length he received another slight promotion. He now married an amiable Tartar maid, on whom fortune once had smiled and promised heaps of wealth; but which the waste of war and the ruthless hand of rapine had destroyed. He long had loved her, and though her wealth was gone, his love for this fair maid remained sincere and firm, as from the first: merit and beauty were the only portion that she brought him on their marriage. Exemplary was their way of life, and happy they

seemed, though scanty were their means; no luxury could they enjoy, except the luxury of mutual love. Their family increased; not so their means of subsistence. In their face cold penury stared. Against the frowns of penury they patient stood. Long struggled they against an adverse tide that with augmented force came pouring on.

"At length the powerful combination of foes that some time back threatened, in different parts, our wide extended state, caused this brave officer to leave his home, and once more join in active warfare the army of the Khan; which I led in person against the enemy. In the first action, after having fought a considerable time with great gallantry, he dropt exhausted and wounded upon the field, just as the battle closed; and was reckoned amongst the slain.

"As I traversed over the bloody field towards night, and was returning to my tent, in silent and thoughtful mood, my attention was roused by the sound of a faint voice at some little distance.

"I stopped, and listened, when from the

place which the thickest carnage overspread, I heard these words:—

"'I have done my part in this day's battle, and here may draw my latest breath. I am deeply wounded, but a glorious victory we have won, and that will be some consolation before I die. If this bloody field is to be my bed of death, mine will be the bed of martial glory. My wife, my children, will revere my name; but, oh, my sinking heart, the husband, and the father, fill my mind with boding care!' He stopped, but soon resumed, 'Beloved wife and children, I fear these eyes no more will see you. No friend you have; no wealth for your support. On my exertions all depended. My exertions and my prospects, now, alas! are at end. I feel that I must die.

"'Wife of my heart, and my smiling babes, whose smiles will soon be turned to tears, farewell!'

"A bitter sigh here escaped him, which a breeze of wind wafted full upon my ear.

"Towards the spot I strode, and by the evening light could just discern a face, the eyes

of which were nearly closed, and the lips in quivering motion. I gave directions, and he was borne from the place of carnage, and with care attended. He recovered a little during the night; and in the morning I went to see him, and immediately recognized an officer, whose bravery I had noticed in the fight. I promised him promotion. This was a cordial to his heart, and balsam to his wounds. Soon from the bed of sickness he aroused, and before his sores were healed, he again in arms appeared.

"I had promoted him, and this made him eager to rejoin us; and with increased zeal, called his ardour and his bravery forth. Again in battle he was wounded; and again. Fresh promotion I gave him.

"In a fierce assault upon a mighty castle of our foes, which seemed to bid defiance to our efforts, this brave officer was amongst the foremost to burst the gates, whilst from the battlements and walls, the hostile hosts their stones and arrows poured, like rattling storms of hail. He fell beneath the rattling storm, but quickly rose again, and cheered our men. Onward they

drove, but desperate was the conflict before the foes would yield.

"In every action since, to the very last, he has bravely fought; and now in peace, with honour, and that promotion he so well deserved, to his beloved wife and children he is gone.

"Four times advanced he has been since known to me, besides the first promotion that I gave him on the day I recognized him, after his conveyance almost lifeless from the carnage of the field; and with the share of spoils he has nobly earned, he now may live, if not in affluence, at least in ease."

Temugin paused, and fixed his eyes upon the grandee, who remained silent.

"That gallant officer," resumed Temugin, "whose story I have been narrating, need not be diffident of shewing himself at court, although he may not be allied to hereditary rank. His merit, and his services, have made him well known to me; and I for one will not fail to distinguish him in the palace of the Khan. Canst

thou compare the claims of thy near relative, with those I have just related, although he is highly born, and bears thy name!"

"I want not to vaunt the actions of my nephew," replied the grandee; "what I wanted for him was promotion; promotion at least equal to that which others have received. With this view I encouraged him to enter the army. What if he has not been so often tried in scenes of danger? What if he is not covered with wounds, and scars, does it follow that he is destitute of merit? Is he to be passed over like a needy adventurer without friends or fortune. Let such as those share the spoils of war, and welcome; but let them not take the rank likewise, which is sought by those of higher birth."

"Why should those of higher birth be promoted beyond those of higher merit?" demanded Temugin. "Wouldst thou have commands entrusted to high-born youths, who lack experience, and have not skill to martial troops, and lead them on to fight in due array; who know not when to make advance with the fairest prospect of success; or when to retrograde with proper

care and judgment. Can he who wants experience know when to seize the advantage that the chance of war may offer; sometimes in attack, and sometimes in defence. Perhaps as much depends upon a leader's skill and care, as on his courage; and what skill in war can he possess who has not obtained experience?"

The grandee intimated that he did not seek to argue on those points, but he must be excused for seeking to gain as much promotion for his nephew, as others had received; and he thought the Khan would not deny him. Saying this, the haughty lord withdrew in umbrage.

"How injurious to the brave, and meritorious, are the selfish notions of such as him," exclaimed Temugin, when the grandee had departed. "Notwithstanding the narrative he has heard from me respecting the gallant officer, who so nobly fought in various actions, and was, until of late, so ill rewarded, yet does this man of high birth and great connections, envy the former his well deserved promotion; because his own relative has not been advanced in proportion. It is but a short time since the latter

joined the army, and soon he lingered in the rear, preferring safety there to glory and danger, in the foremost ranks of war. Unwell he pretended to be; that was the reason which he gave; but when a decisive battle we had gained, his health was suddenly restored, and he boldly marched in the van; and he with great shew of boldness too, pursued the flying foes; for they had been so sore defeated that they could not rally, and make a stand. Had he not come on, he would have found himself left far behind, with not a single soldier, except the wounded and disabled, to bear him company. So much for this high born youth, and his disappointed hopes of great preferment. He has claims too. Yes, he will boast that he was in the great battle, and amongst the foremost in pursuing the foes; but can he say that he helped to beat them first? I must say, no, if the discontented lord in his appeal to the Khan will force me to speak so plainly. If I do, even then it is doubtful whether his influence, and the importunities of his friends, will not ultimately prevail. The Khan attends too much to some

of these intriguing wealthy lords, who gain his ear by their smooth and specious words. They urge in plausible terms to him their selfish suit, and prefer their own views and interest, to the welfare of the state.

" Brave Altoun is of noble birth, but not like these. He is open, generous-minded, and sincere. Have I ever passed him over? No. The reason is plain, he has merited the advance which he has received. Let envy and discontent be silent. I have been guided by no undue partiality; but have recommended those the most, who have most deserved; whether they have been of lowly, or exalted birth. This is the surest way to make the army of the Khan effective; but if heaps of wealth, and proud hereditary rank, must keep the long experienced, well-tried, gallant veteran from promotion, soon will the martial genius of a country go, and leave it exposed to the chance of insults, and assaults, from every daring foe."

The brave officer, alluded to in the conversation between the disappointed lord and Temugin, was now journeying with joy, and haste, towards

the home where his beloved wife and children dwelt. Far from the court was their abode. Far retired from scenes of state and luxury, they lived. How his soul exulted at the thought that their privations soon would cease. High preferment he had gained since he saw them last, and many a wound could proclaim his martial glory. In mental pride he reckons all his scars, and then reflects upon the spoils and treasure he has gathered in the wars. A tear of joy starts to his eye, as he anticipates with what wonder and delight his children will view the treasure that he brings, when he displays it to their sight in shining heaps upon the board. With what oft-repeated questions they will ask of battles and of wars, in which he has been engaged; how eager they will be to hear of distant lands, through which he has traversed; how often urge him to acquaint them with the dangers he has undergone, and how often he has been wounded in hostile fight; what sort of man the great renowned leader of the troops can be, that sent their parent home with so much treasure, and

such high promotion. They will think the treasure sufficient to purchase such numerous flocks and herds, as would nearly overspread the wide Tartarian plain, contiguous to which they dwell.

Whilst thus his pleasing fancy he indulged, o'er many a mile he swiftly passed, until at length, from a rising ground, he could just discern the place where his fondest hopes and wishes centered. At the sight, with renovated speed he hastens on. Some distance yet he had to go, when suddenly he indistinctly views a group advancing. His heart tumultuous throbs.

Can it be his anxious wife and children come so far to meet him? Or imagination does deceive him, or it must be them.

A graceful female form he thinks he sees—now four children he can count—these were the number of his own.

Whilst still he strained his eyes, and moved along with speed, suddenly the group began to separate. One child came running towards him with all its might. Two more were, by turns,

dragging each other on. The female, and another child, could not keep pace. In a few moments he clearly distinguished his eldest boy, who had outrun the rest.

"They are my beloved wife, and my dear children,—all my children!" in a broken voice the grateful warrior cried; then spurred his generous steed.

As soon as he had arrived near, from the steed he threw himself, and his extended arms received his first-born blooming boy, whose panting breath evinced the eager speed he had made. The other two children who hard had strove, and tugged each other on, next came, and met his fond paternal arms; and then his youngest offspring with its mother quickly followed.

"Oh! welcome, welcome to thy wife and children!" she exclaimed; and overcome with strong emotion, fell upon his manly faithful breast. He could not speak, but pressed her to his heart.

* * * * *

The first transports of their meeting over, in

cheerful and happy mood they made towards home, which they reached before the day had closed.

The splendid martial garb their father wore, now called forth his children's admiration; minutely they examined it; with increased delight they viewed it o'er and o'er, and smiling to each other said, their father never looked so fine and grand before. Their mother with maternal pleasure saw her children's smiles, and on the father's knee his youngest offspring placed; then with sweet emotion pressed her husband's hand.

The gallant veteran for a few moments in silence enjoyed the scene. A full recompense he felt for all the toils, privations, wounds, and dangers, he had undergone. He had reached his home, and was surrounded by his beloved wife and children, delighted and happy at his return. What greater bliss could he receive? His heart was filled with exquisite sensation. He envied not the Khan upon his splendid throne. Not all the eastern thrones combined,

could have yielded to the husband and the father half the pleasure he now felt.

In brief, the gallant officer recites the promotion he has gained, and the spoils and treasures which have fallen to his share. The full details of his adventures he promises to relate hereafter. He then displayed the treasure he had brought, and told them that a greater portion was yet to come. "Privations now are at an end," he said. "Rank I have obtained; high rank, and wealth, besides. Friendless from my home I went; not so I have returned. The deeds I haply have performed, under the great victorious leader, have made him, renowned Temugin, my friend. With gratitude and reverence I speak the name of great renowned Temugin, my exalted, powerful friend."

With grateful joy his amiable spouse exclaimed, "Whilst we live, we will bless the illustrious leader's name."

"And I will fight for him," rejoined the eldest boy; "and have a shining sword, and mount a stately steed, and ride to Tartary's

wars. A gallant soldier I will be, and gain high rank, and have a splendid dress, and bring home store of spoils and wealth."

"Thou shalt not leave thy mother, my blooming, darling boy. We have plenty now, and peace has come; therefore, think not thou of leaving thy home, and going to the cruel wars. Bear in mind thy dear father's wounds and scars; the severe privations, and the toils he has undergone; and the many dangers he has risked before he gained his present rank, and wealth."

THE discontented lord in a few days obtained an audience of the Khan, and addressed him in the following terms.

"Most gracious and mighty prince, I have a nephew in thy army, for whose interest I am solicitous. It was with deep regret that I found he had not been promoted as I had expected at the conclusion of war; but what has given me the most uneasiness is the circumstance that an officer, who is, I believe, of obscure origin, or at least not of high birth, should take precedence of him in military rank; especially as this officer was formerly below him. He is at present two, if not three, gradations above my relative.

"I am perfectly ready to do the most ample

justice to the valour, skill, and ability of the great leader of thy troops, whom thou hast been pleased in thy magnanimity so nobly to reward, in bestowing upon him the beauteous princess, thy daughter; yet at the same time O mighty Khan, I trust thou wilt not be offended at my submitting to thy consideration, whether it is good policy in him to raise obscure adventurers in thy army over the heads of those who are allied to hereditary rank, and heirs to large possessions. These latter give respectability to thy military force, and augment its splendour. They have much at stake themselves, and are warmly attached to their prince, whose power and glory they are ready at all times to uphold and defend; but what do mere adventurers enter into an army for, except for their own advantage? Many of them fight, no doubt, with great bravery; but it is solely for their own individual interest. All their exertions are directed to the attainment of their own selfish views. They cannot be actuated by that zeal for the state, as those who have great connections and large possessions belonging to it.

Needy and obscure adventurers enter the army of a prince to gain subsistence. Necessity compels them; they have no choice. Far different is it with those of high birth. They, on the contrary, serve their prince from choice, not necessity; and shall those who are needy, and obscurely born, O mighty Khan, take precedence of those of noble parentage?"

"Thy observations respecting adventurers," coldly replied the Khan, "lose much of their force at the mention of Temugin's name. It may not be quite unknown to thee, though it might not occur to thy mind at the moment, that he came an adventurer hither, whilst yet a mere youth, and entered into my service. Who could have shewn more devotion to the prince he served, than Temugin has done? What native officer has ever raised the lustre and the glory of the Tartar arms so high? Needy he might have been; but was he obscurely born? If he had been both needy and obscurely born, could his transcendant merit, skill, and valour, have been overlooked, for persons of wealth and higher birth?"

" Mighty Khan," resumed the courtier, in a subdued tone, " when I alluded to adventurers, I intended not the slightest reflection on the illustrious Temugin, whom thou hast been pleased so greatly to honour. Many years have now elapsed since he came to Tartary. If he was originally an adventurer, it escaped my recollection; and I must acknowledge him to have been an exception to adventurers in general, 'for *he* was descended from a princely line.'"

The latter remark, which the artful lord spoke with emphasis, was grateful to the ears of the Khan. His dignity, he felt, had not been degraded by bestowing his daughter on Temugin; though it was meant chiefly as a reward for the signal services of that renowned leader.

Temugin's fame, as a great, and skilful commander, was widely spread; but his descent from a line of princes was a pleasing addition for the Khan to hear from the mouth of one of the grandees.

The grandee saw the satisfaction of the Khan, and seized the favorable moment of increasing

it, by intimating that if Temugin had been an adventurer, he could, nevertheless, claim descent from a higher line than perhaps the highest Tartar lord could boast.

My point is nearly gained, thought the grandee, as he now observed the countenance of the Khan, and immediately solicited him to grant some farther promotion to his nephew; that he might not stand in rank below the officer, who had until of late, been inferior to him in military gradation.

"As a proof of my regard for thyself," replied the Khan, "I will shortly give some farther promotion to thy nephew; but I cannot do it to the detriment of an officer, whom Temugin has doubtless had some very strong reason to recommend to the rank he now possesses; and thou thyself must be aware that although those of high birth and wealthy connections, may add splendour to an army, yet its chief strength depends on men who are inured to hardships and toil, and fearless of danger; who are ready to embrace every opportunity of signalizing themselves, and who

have often proved their valour in perilous enterprizes; and acquired skill in the art of war by long experience. Such as these are in fact absolutely entitled to promotion, and if they have it not, their zeal and ardour will be naturally damped by disappointed hopes.

"I fear that, notwithstanding the indefatigable care of Temugin, many old and deserving officers have not obtained so much preferment as they have merited; although I feel convinced that he allows none to escape his attention, who have to his knowledge distinguished themselves. In advancing thy nephew, therefore, I shall do it as a mark of favour to thyself; and not as an act of justice due to him for services performed; for if I mistake not, he has been but a comparatively short time in the army, and of course cannot have obtained much experience.

"I hope, however, that no more of these applications will be made to me; for so admirable has been the conduct of Temugin, in the management of the army, since he has held the chief command; and so effective and highly disciplined has it become, that I wish to

leave these matters to be regulated by him; satisfied as I am that he is far above being actuated by any caprice, or undue partiality, in promoting some, more than others. No slight has been intended for thy nephew in particular; and let it not enter thy thoughts that disrespect has been shewn to thyself. It will be found that the elevation of the officer above thy relative, has been to make amends to the former for previous ill-requited services. It will turn out, I am certain, that he is some gallant experienced veteran, whose advancement had formerly been too tardy for his high deserts. Let what I have said satisfy thee."

The grandee made a respectful obeisance to the Khan, and withdrew.

It was not long before Mangu, and Hakem, heard the result of the grandee's audience; and they were determined likewise to try their influence in the behalf of their friends; and if possible undermine the credit of Temugin, by artful insinuations, that he slighted those who had always been the most devoted to the Khan; and preferred other officers whose sentiments

were doubtful, and their connections unknown.

Hakem made the first attempt; but from the humour in which he found the Khan, he thought it prudent to desist from pressing any invidious remarks at that time against Temugin.

Mangu next obtained an audience, and being an older courtier, and more in the confidence of the Khan, he anticipated hopes of better success. He began by observing that he would not trespass on the indulgence of his prince, by soliciting preferment for a friend in the army, at the present moment; particularly as he understood that there were others similarly circumstanced, who fancied that they had been neglected in the late promotion. Mangu had no doubt the Khan would be pleased to bear his friend in mind at a future opportunity. "For thy magnanimity, O mighty prince," said he, "has been so often displayed as to be the theme of every tongue. The rewards, and honours, thou hast bestowed on the illustrious Temugin, is an incontestible proof of thy noble generosity to those whose actions have merited thy favour. The vast

patronage thou hast conferred on that great leader, in selecting officers, whom he most approves, for promotion, would be dangerous in any other hand; because it might detract in some measure from the influence of the throne itself, and gradually encroach upon its prerogative. Was Temugin of an intriguing, and ambitious disposition, he would have the greater part of the army at his disposal to support his designs. Officers depend upon him for promotion, not on the interest of their connections at court; and, indeed, those who have been chiefly promoted of late, have been of obscure origin. They neither care, or know about the court as long as Temugin is their friend; whom I suspect they will consider of more importance to themselves than the Khan himself."

Mangu stopped.—He saw the countenance of the Khan was clouded, and feared that himself had been too precipitate in making such open insinuations. He was deterred from proceeding;—he was embarrassed, and considering how to extricate himself, when suddenly the princess entered the apartment.

This was a breach of all form and ceremony, especially as the Khan was giving private audience.

The princess made a respectful apology for her intrusion, which she attributed to an inadvertent mistake through absence of mind. She then pretended to withdraw, but she was so slow in her movement, that Mangu hastily seized the opportunity of making his obeisance to the Khan, and retiring first; as if he did it out of deference and respect, now the princess was present with her father.

As Mangu departed, the Khan told his daughter, in an offended tone, that she should be careful not to intrude in such an unceremonious manner, when he was engaged in giving audience; as it was an infringement on that decorum which ought to be observed in courts; and that she should not forget he was the Khan, as well as her father. The respect due to his dignity must not be slightly treated.

The princess again apologized, and the Khan mentioned no more about it; but the insinuations which Mangu had previously dropped, re-

specting the dangerous influence that Temugin might have over the army, made a deep and unpleasant impression on his mind; and sowed the latent seeds of suspicion and jealousy, against that great commander, which caused such important events hereafter.

The princess had borne in mind the words which Kola had spoke to her in confidence at parting; and the suspicions of the daughter of the Khan had latterly been roused. She had discovered that something was in agitation at court, between Mangu, Hakem, and their friends; and learnt that they had expressed much discontent that their connections in the army had not met with greater advancement. She concluded, therefore, that they would concert in secret, some measures to prejudice Temugin in the opinion of the Khan, if possible; and employed her vigilance in consequence, to penetrate into what was going forward. She ascertained that the Khan had given private audience to two of the courtiers; and knew perfectly well that Mangu was with him at the time she abruptly, and designedly, entered the apart-

ment, for the purpose of interrupting his conference, at the risk of her father's displeasure for intruding. She darted a hasty and indignant glance at that courtier, which his conscious guilty intentions made him feel most deeply. She noticed his embarrassment, and trusted that he would hereafter be deterred from his sinister proceedings, by the apprehensions he would be under of her suspecting him; and exposing to her father the evil designs against Temugin, in the manner they deserved; but, though she might have checked Mangu in the present instance, and deterred him from future designs, she felt some uneasiness that dark and injurious insinuations might already have been made by him to the Khan; though not to the extent he had meditated, yet still sufficient to leave some venom behind. The thoughtful clouded brow of her father, seemed to indicate that there was something unpleasant on his mind. The princess, however, forbore from speaking her sentiments respecting Mangu, at this time, as it would have appeared that her intrusion was not inadvertent, but designed; as

in fact it was. After she had made a second apology to her father, she therefore withdrew.

As Mangu had sown the first seeds of mistrust and suspicion, in the mind of the Khan, against Temugin, so had he likewise brought much painful anxiety upon himself. The indignant glance which he had encountered from the princess, made him feel in no enviable situation; and he was convinced that it required all his dissimulation and cunning, to guard against the effects of her displeasure. If her vigilance detected, and exposed his secret machinations, and her influence over the Khan, her father, predominated, he would himself have to retire in disgrace from the sunshine of royal favour; and be no more the distinguished courtier, the potent lord, once so high in the confidence of his prince. He had already been greatly mortified at the superior influence of Temugin; and to a haughty, supercilious disposition, like Mangu's, the angry glance of the princess was like a pointed arrow to his bosom, which, though not fatal, left a rankling wound to pro-

long the pain; and he experienced it more sharply from the critical moment when it came.

However, the accustomed effrontery of Mangu assisted him to bear up against the frown of the princess; and envy urged him still to proceed with his malicious endeavours to prejudice Temugin, by seizing every opportunity that might offer, of secretly insinuating that the popularity of the latter in the army, would tempt him by degrees, to assume that power which ought to belong to the Khan alone; and that he might on a future day, be induced by bold ambition, to place himself, through force, or intrigue, upon the throne; and burst through all those ties of gratitude and allegiance, which should bind him to the interests of his benefactor and his prince.

Heated by imagination, as he contemplated these things, the plotting courtier was rather off his guard, and as he paced the ante-chamber in the spacious suite of apartments where he resided, he exclaimed aloud to himself; "What should hinder me then in persevering to stop the increasing influence of Temugin, by every

means that I can devise? If caution, and policy, point out to me that secret hints to the Khan are more likely to succeed in supplanting Temugin from his confidence, why should I not have recourse to them? By secret stratagem a foe may be surprised, and overcome, when open force would have been unavailing. I shall only be perfoming my duty in hinting to the Khan, in private, that the patronage, and power, he has placed in the hands of Temugin, may hereafter endanger his throne. This adventurer's lofty height must be lowered. He stands so high that he overshadows all at court; and he must be removed. If I can make a breach between the Khan and him, I shall regain that importance there which he has so much eclipsed. Both duty and interest urge me on, until Temugin is curtailed of his influence and power.

"It is prudence that actuates me. Who therefore could condemn my conduct? Who could accuse me?"

"Thy own conscience," responded a voice in

a loud, solemn tone, which made the courtier start.

"Thy own conscience shall accuse thee, proud, designing, envious lord!" continued the solemn voice, and then ceased.

Mangu looked aghast!

It was near the midnight hour, and except himself no one was stirring, as he thought, within the palace. All appeared to him to have been wrapped in sleep. He now listened for some time. Not even a breath of wind could he hear. All was quiet.

From whence, or from whom, could the solemn voice have proceeded? Was it supernatural? No; it was fancy, cried he softly; nothing but fancy. I will retire to rest. Not often do I encroach upon this late hour of night. My mind has been disturbed, or long ere this I should have slumbered on my couch.

Let watchmen midnight vigils keep,
Whilst I respite my thoughts with sleep.
The dull and silent midnight hour,
Aids superstition's power;

And then our drowsy senses err,
And reason is a wanderer.—
Wild fancy with her train draws near,
And oft inclines the mind to fear.
Give me the cheerful morning light,
And not this lonely time of night;
For Superstition's power,
Is greatest at the midnight hour.
My thoughts have made me early rise,
And late will make me close my eyes.
Thoughts, I will give you some respite;
'Tis time;—Hark! It is midnight.—

* * * * *

Was that a gust of wind that blew,
And mov'd the door as it went through?

* * * * *

What was it sounded then?
I'll hearken once again!

* * * * *

All is profoundly silent now,
And scarce a breath of wind does blow;
I'll to my couch retire,
For sleep I now require.

At this moment a noise like a clap of thunder suddenly struck the astonished ears of Mangu, and arrested his steps. The door of his apartment in a moment opened with such prodigious violence, as to shake the whole room to that degree, that he nearly fell. He expected to see the door shivered to atoms; but it was entire, and wide open. No person could he discern, and who would be guilty of such behaviour? Who, indeed, possessed such strength?

What could it mean? What could it portend? wondered Mangu, whilst the cold sweat trickled from his brow, and his tottering knees hardly supported his agitated frame.

Another loud clap of thunder echoed through the place, and another louder still succeeded it.

The door shut too with velocity, and again opened with a crash more tremendous than at first!

Mangu attempted to fly in haste to the inner room; but his steps were impeded; a thick vapour involved him, and he was in momentary darkness. He, however, shut his eyes through fear.

Suddenly the gloom dispersed, and a glaring light appeared!

The eyes of Mangu were touched, and he was constrained to open them; when he immediately beheld a Gigantic Form before him!

Not pleasing was the aspect of the Gigantic Form, and Mangu tried to avert his eyes, but in vain; in vain he tried to move away.

"Look on me without fear, potent, wealthy lord, and listen to my words," loud spoke the Gigantic Form. "Be not dismayed at sight of me.

"I am thy Genius, O Mangu, and will string thy nerves with firmness, and with bold effrontery arm thee. Rely upon my power. I have long invisibly attended on thee, and will aid thy efforts to displace great Temugin, who hither came in early youth a mere adventurer from Mogul. What hast thou to apprehend, aided by thy powerful Genius? Art thou not versed in all the intrigues of a court? Art thou not possessed of abundant wealth, of extended domains, and high hereditary rank? Wilt thou suffer thyself to become an empty name in Ung

Khan's splendid court? Fear not the princess. Thou shalt succeed in creating dissension between the Khan and Temugin. The influence of the princess cannot prevent it.

"Thus says the Genius, who will assist Mangu, and give him artful perseverance, 'Secretly, but boldly act.' The secret shaft, with deeply meditated aim, will surest wound. I will be near. Depend upon my exertions and power.

"Great Temugin, the friendless orphan once, at present like the lofty cedar stands exalted. By my strong aid thou yet mayest cast him down.

"Behold these scales. How nicely they are balanced."

Mangu looked, and in the hand of the Gigantic Form appeared a pair of scales.

In either scale there was a weight. On one of the weights was deeply impressed the word "Death." On the other was inscribed the word "Flight."

"See," continued the Gigantic Form, "how

the fate of Temugin is balanced between Flight, and Death."

"Almost a single hair would make the scale of Death preponderate.

"I have displayed these mystic symbols to thy sight, O Mangu, and clearly thou mayest draw the inference.

"Ere long great Temugin may be constrained to fly; or, better far for thee, great Temugin may die."

The Gigantic Form here ceased, and with a noise like thunder, disappeared!

Mangu the next instant found himself upon his couch. A heavy stupor quickly overcame him, and he sunk to sleep.

When the courtier awoke the next morning, he reflected on the scene of the preceding night. The whole was impressed clearly upon his memory. The awful and loud claps of thunder, with the violent motion of the door, and rocking of the apartments, were circumstances which he wished to obliterate from his mind; but the prediction of the Genius, relative to Temugin was agreeable to him; far otherwise

was the appearance of the supernatural agent. Its Gigantic Form and visage, too, inspired him with dread when he reflected upon them; and fancy still presented them to his mind.

Nor could Mangu, although he considered the whole must be a dream, forget the words of the loud, solemn voice, which even yet seemed to ring in his ears.

"Thy own conscience shall accuse thee, proud, envious lord."

He felt no inclination for a repetition of these visionary occurrences, and determined to seek some change of place for a short time, to divert his mind. With this view, Mangu made an excursion to his residence, at a distance in the country, and recreated himself with visiting his connections, and taking a survey of his own extensive domains, and the vicinity around.

The princess was rejoiced at the absence of Mangu, and attributed the circumstance to her own address. She thought he had been checked by her indignant glance; that he apprehended she had penetrated his evil designs, and had withdrawn, under the apprehensions of being

exposed. She abstained from hinting anything of the matter to the Khan, or Temugin.

The latter, however, was aware that some of the courtiers, and great lords, were dissatisfied at his being the means of meritorious officers receiving promotion in preference to those of high connections; but, conscious that he had discharged the duties of his station with justice and impartiality, he suffered not the equanimity of his mind to be disturbed. He had no idea that the Khan could be prejudiced against him, though he might hear the complaints of the courtiers, and be induced to promise promotion to their friends.

The ties of relationship, as well as his own services, which had been so often acknowledged by the sovereign, were considered by Temugin to be a secure shield against the attempts of envy and detraction. He, therefore, hardly thought them worthy of his notice. He knew the system that he pursued made him popular with the army, and with the state in general. His marriage with the princess, above all, gave him a claim to the full confidence of the Khan,

her father; and whatever might be the inclination of a few intriguing characters at court, formerly, Temugin naturally concluded that they would not have the temerity to risk any injurious insinuations against him now.

About this time, came a letter of congratulation to the Tartar leader, on his marriage to the daughter of the Khan, from the brave and generous Alkansor, whose grateful mind made him feel a pleasure in anything relative to the prosperity of Temugin. The latter, likewise, felt a high esteem for Alkansor and his amiable lady, Fetmah. As his own important station did not admit of a visit to the distant region where they dwelt, he gave the noble pair an invitation to the court of Tartary.

Altoun, at the same time, received a despatch from Alkansor, reminding the former that as the rage of war had ceased, he could probably find leisure to gratify his curiosity in viewing the land of the ancient Chaldea; and bring his fair Kola with him to the banks of the Euphrates and Tigris; her company would be highly agreeable to his own beloved Fetmah.

"I am off," exclaimed Altoun, when he had perused Alkansor's epistle. "I intended to have went, and this decides it at once."

"Where art thou off, my dear Altoun?" cried Kola in surprise; "and where was it thy intention to have went?"

Altoun asked if she had forgot the intention he had formerly expressed, of paying a visit to the generous Alkansor.

"Read that letter, my Kola," said Altoun; "that has fixed my determination; there is an invitation for thyself, likewise, from the noble lady Fetmah.

"To the banks of the famed Euphrates, my dearest Kola, we will go, and witness the wide rolling stream, and behold it with the rushing Tigris flow. Perhaps we may visit the place where the once great Babylon stood, the wonder of the world."

"Though Babylon has long ceased to exist," observed Kola, "yet the ruins of that mightiest of ancient cities are still to be seen on the south of Bagdad, according to an account which I have read."

"We must have a look at Bagdad, too, the seat of the Caliphs," resumed Altoun. "Kola of course must go with me, I shall not leave her behind, to ramble without me, over the wild Tartarian plains, and sing to flocks, and herds, her plaintive strains. She must accompany me, and point out, as we pass along, the cities and places of old renown, and the chief events connected with them, which the page of history has recorded. Kola is well read; but I am a bad historian. The camp has been my school, and arms my books; but now my camp shall be where Kola is present, and her sweet looks shall be my choicest books."

Kola thanked Altoun for his kind expressions, and would endeavour to make her looks always pleasing to him. Where he went she would cheerfully follow, and hoped never to be long absent from him.

"To-morrow, then, let Kola follow me to court, and I will pay my respects to my renowned friend, and procure permission for my intended journey."

Kola intimated that she would gladly avail

herself of the opportunity of seeing the princess, her dear and exalted benefactress. She had intended to propose a visit to court shortly for that purpose.

"So far then the matter is mutually agreed upon, and settled," replied Altoun, with a smile, "and a kiss from Kola must ratify it."

They set out for court the ensuing day; and Altoun having made known his desire to pay a visit to the country where Alkansor and Fetmah resided, his request for leave of absence was readily granted.

"Thou art going then, brave Altoun, to the distant land of Chaldea," observed Temugin. "I should have had no objection to accompany thee, but the duties of my station prevent it. I hope thou wilt have a prosperous journey; and find Alkansor, and Fetmah, in good health. From what we know of their grateful, and generous disposition, thy visit will certainly be highly pleasing to them. I have sent them an invitation to court; remind them of it, and peradventure they may be prevailed upon to return with thee. Tell them that the princess joins in

my invitation. But what does thy fair Kola think of this long journey? Was she not startled at the idea of venturing to such a distance from her native country?"

"I had hinted the matter to her previous to our marriage," replied Altoun, "and, therefore, she was partly prepared. She has agreed to follow cheerfully where I go, and, therefore, the thoughts of those mighty waters, on the banks of which the noble Fetmah and Alkansor dwell, will not deter her in my company. Kola and myself seldom differ in our sentiments. We are in perfect peace and amity with each other; which I trust will continue without the slightest interruption to the end of our lives. I shall direct her wandering steps through unknown lands, and she is to be my historian, and record the remarkable events that have taken place in some of the most celebrated parts, through which we have to traverse."

Temugin expressed his pleasure to hear such a gratifying account of Altoun's happiness with Kola.

"Most fervently do I hope that thou wilt

enjoy the same felicity with thy amiable princess. The time may come that I shall behold my illustrious friend with the daughter of the Khan, seated on the throne of Tartary; and pay my grateful and respectful homage at your feet."

"Not a word more on that subject, I strictly charge thee," cried Temugin, in rather a hasty tone. "I know thy sincere and open disposition, Altoun; I have always admired it, but I must caution thee as a friend, to keep a guard upon thy tongue. Would Altoun, through inadvertent words, and without the least design, become my foe, as well as his own? Long may the Khan live in the full plenitude of power and honour. I am his subject, though married to his daughter, and shall always serve him with the most devoted fidelity; and look up to him with as much reverence as ever."

"I only meant—" said Altoun.

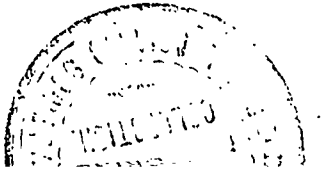
"I know Altoun meant nothing unbecoming a brave, upright, and loyal subject of the Khan," interrupted Temugin. "There is not the slightest harm in Altoun's disposition, but his tongue

requires a little more restraint at times. Let us seek the princess and Kola, and talk on other subjects. Thy intended journey, and the various places on the way, will afford a copious theme.

"I think a Tartar lady will be a novel sight in far Chaldea's land."

Altoun and Kola remained three days at the palace, and were honoured with the most friendly condescension from the princess and Temugin; after which the former took their leave, and returned to their own residence, when they made immediate preparations for their distant excursion.

In a few days, having completed those arrangements which they considered necessary, they commenced their journey.



DURING Mangu's temporary absence from the court, his intriguing disposition was still incessantly employed in meditating schemes, to promote the insidious project he had in view, of accomplishing the downfall of Temugin. His own artful mind suggested to the envious courtier that insinuations of too pointed a nature at the onset, might be extremely hazardous to himself; but he trusted in his own address and cunning, gradually to undermine the credit of Temugin, by secret hints to the Khan, as opportunities offered; until he succeeded in raising strong jealousy and suspicion against the former. If he could effect this, the Khan from being the friend of Temugin, might eventually become his decided enemy; and he himself would have

nothing to fear from the future resentment of the great leader; because he would not then have the power to injure Mangu, if he actually discovered that the latter had been secretly plotting against him.

The subtle courtier, however, was under some apprehension that the princess already suspected his designs; but on reflection he concluded that he had nothing to dread from her, beyond an indignant glance, to which he would shortly be callous.

The words of the Genius, "Fear not the princess," recurred to Mangu's mind; and besides it would be a matter of great delicacy for her to acquaint Temugin with her suspicions, that the Khan, her father, listened to the secret foes of the former. She might endeavour to frustrate Mangu's views by her influence and presence with the Khan; but she would be silent about the matter to her husband; at least so the courtier judged, and in this opinion the words of the Genius served to confirm him.

The fall of the great commander appeared certain to Mangu; for the Genius had predicted

that "Temugin ere long might die, or be constrained from court to fly." A startling reflection, however, occurred, which was, if Temugin escaped by flight, he might possibly return at some future period, and regain much of his former influence and favour with the Khan, through the mediation of the princess; but this unpleasant reflection he soon dismissed; for if Temugin was obliged to seek his safety by flight from the Khan, the breach between them in all probability would be irreparable; and, indeed, the matter might be even decided at once by his death. Mangu tried to reconcile his conscience to the latter event; but his conscience upbraided him. Why should he meditate Temugin's destruction? His own evil disposition quickly suggested that but for Temugin, he himself would still have been the chief personage at Ung Khan's court.

His own lost patronage and influence, galled Mangu's envious mind. He wanted to have the chief confidence of the prince. Temugin was an impediment in the way, and Temugin must be removed at any rate.

"The scruples of conscience I will not regard," cried Mangu, with affected disdain.

Conscience I will set aside,
Its foolish scruples I'll deride,
And policy shall be my guide.
By deep intrigues I'll steer my course,
And Temugin shall feel their force;
His rising fortune shall give way;
I will not bend beneath its sway.
Shall noblest Tartar birth give place,
Or the adventurer meet disgrace?
He sav'd the state from former harms,
But yet may fill it with alarms.
Should ambition urge him on,
He'd seize the sceptre and the throne:
The army would obey his will,
For that admires his martial skill:
Oft by him to victory led,
And taught by him no foes to dread;
By whose side they have often bled,
The troops their dearest blood would shed,
To hail their leader "Tart'ry's head!"
Shall he become our future lord,
Whose only fortune was his sword?

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No !—Let the adventurer fly,
Or, if expedient, let him die ;
If he the danger dares defy.
Conscience, what hast thou to fear,
When the Genius will be near ?
The Genius that proffer'd aid;
The Genius that plainly said :—
" Great Temugin ere long might fly,
" Or, better far for me, might die."

Mangu having, as he thought, matured his nefarious schemes, returned to court. He paid the most obsequious respect to Temugin and the princess; and carefully abstained for the present, from seeking any private conference with the Khan. Contrary to his former habits, he appeared to be not at all solicitous about any thing that occurred at the palace. His busy, inquisitive disposition, and much of his previous self-importance, seemed to have left him.

The princess again congratulated herself on the effects of her former marked displeasure to Mangu, and indulged the hope that it had put a final check to any evil designs he might have

meditated against Temugin; but she, nevertheless, observed with regret that the countenance of the Khan frequently appeared cloudy and thoughtful.

Some days had elapsed since Mangu's return to court, when information was received that a garrison of great importance on the frontiers, consisting of a numerous body of veteran troops, was in a state of ferment, little short of open revolt; that the men had been guilty of various acts of insubordination; had plundered the stores, and many of them had deserted with the booty.

The despatch intimated that strong suspicions were entertained that the troops had been tampered with by emissaries from the neighbouring state; and a hint was thrown out, that the loyalty of the gallant officer, whom Temugin had so highly promoted of late, was at least doubtful. This officer, whose name was Cafor, resided at no great distance from the frontier garrison; and it was stated that he had recently been on a visit to a person in the neighbouring country, and received a visit from him in return.

He had likewise been at the garrison a short time before the disorders commenced, and it was suspected that he must have had some hand in fomenting them, as he was seen in discourse with several of the men who formerly belonged to the company under his command; and who, it was known, were much attached to him.

The Khan was irritated at this intelligence; and, in a conference with Temugin on the subject, expressed some disapprobation at the advancement of the officer in question, whose conduct had given rise to suspicion.

"Many brave actions this officer may have performed," observed the Khan, "but it is requisite that officers should be loyal as well as brave. That bravery which Cafor formerly displayed against my enemies, may hereafter be exerted in their favour, if not timely prevented. Let him, therefore, be summoned at once to court, and strictly interrogated; and if any circumstances of a suspicious nature are proved, he must at once be stripped of the rank that has been bestowed upon him, and dismissed from the army. The insubordination amongst the

troops in this important fortress may be very detrimental to our affairs if not speedily suppressed; because the contagion may spread to others."

Temugin heard the Khan's remarks with respectful attention, though he was somewhat struck at the manner in which they were expressed; which was rather in a reprehensive style to himself.

The firm considerate chief replied, that he had forwarded Cafor's promotion so much latterly, not only on account of the gallant actions which that officer had performed under his own eye, but likewise to make some amends for the neglect Cafor had formerly experienced. "His character," added Temugin, "I minutely enquired into, and found that it had never been sullied by any dishonourable deeds. He has served in thy army for many years with fidelity, and bravery; acquired skill and experience; been often wounded; and often neglected when others of less desert have been rewarded; and it is incomprehensible to me, now that he has been highly promoted, and is comparatively wealthy

by his share of the spoils taken from the enemy; now that he has returned with riches and honour; and has the means of living with comfort and happiness in the bosom of his family, that he should engage in sinister practices, hazardous to himself, as well as injurious to the state, and basely ungrateful to his prince.

"A peremptory summons must bring Cafor at once to court, and thou, O mighty Khan, can hear, if thou art pleased, what he has to say in his defence, and deal with him according to thy sovereign will. I will, with thy permission, depart at once, and in person most strictly examine the state of the important garrison, and enquire into the cause of the disorders which the troops are represented to have committed. I will remain there until I have restored order, and receive thy farther commands."

The Khan gave his assent to Temugin's proposals, and a summons was despatched for Cafor, the gallant but suspected officer, to repair immediately to court.

TEMUGIN required but little time to prepare for his departure; and having taken an affectionate leave of his amiable princess, he set off towards the fortress on the frontiers, with his usual expedition.

This was the first circumstance of any moment, since their marriage, that had occurred, to cause the absence of Temugin from the daughter of the Khan; and she felt uneasy at the bare idea that some serious consequence might result from it. The indirect reflections which the Khan had cast upon her husband, appeared to her highly unjust; for the Khan had made some remarks to Temugin, in her presence, which seemed to her to convey a censure on the conduct of the latter, in promoting an officer whose

loyalty had lately become suspected. Could he foresee, in granting promotion where it was due, that it would subsequently lead to disloyalty?

Temugin himself bore the remarks of the Khan with composure; but not so the princess; for she was convinced that they were undeserved by her illustrious spouse. In his absence, and deprived of the lady Kola's society, her spirits became so depressed that she kept chiefly to her own apartments, and paid little attention to what was going on in the palace.

It was soon after the departure of Temugin that Mangu seemed to have regained all his former influence and importance at court. He was frequently in private conference with the Khan, who appeared to place the highest confidence in him. Hakem was likewise in constant attendance, with some others, the chosen friends of Mangu. In a short time a council was summoned by the Khán, through their suggestion, at which all the courtiers who were near at hand attended.

The insubordination in the important fortress

on the frontiers, and the pernicious influence it might have on the troops in general, if not speedily suppressed, became the subject in discussion; as, likewise, the suspicion that rested on Cafor, and some emissaries from the neighbouring powers, having secretly sowed the seeds of discontent.

On this occasion, Hakem openly intimated that much danger might probably arise, by officers being too hastily promoted in the army, before their principles were thoroughly known. He alluded to officers of obscure origin, as in the case of Cafor, on whom strong suspicion rested. Many adventurers like him might enter into the army of the Khan, and display casual instances of great intrepidity when opportunities occurred; but, nevertheless, hasty promotion should not follow. High preferment should be sparingly and cautiously bestowed upon them. High rank in the army should rather be reserved for men of high birth, who had wealthy friends and connections in the state, and possessions at stake, to stimulate their zeal and secure their fidelity. On such as these the Khan

might with greater confidence depend, because they would be out of the reach of temptation; which, Hakem insinuated, could not be the case with needy adventurers, who merely entered the army for a livelihood. The latter had nothing to lose, and incessantly looked for gain. To them it must be matter of indifference whether they fought for friend or foe; whether they served the Khan or his enemies. The tempting bribe might allure the needy, though brave adventurer; but it would meet with scorn from those of wealth and birth.

Hakem ceased, and the courtiers gave looks of approbation to the words he had spoke; for all of them had either relatives, or friends, or dependants in the army, whom they wished to see advanced; and they were chagrined that Temugin had paid no attention to any of them, beyond their own individual merits.

Several of the courtiers in succession concisely spoke, and agreed in the same sentiments as Hakem; but there was one who gave no opinion at present; he merely listened to the remarks of others. However, this courtier

shewed no symptoms of disapprobation, and it was taken for granted by the rest that he coincided with what had been said, or he would have stated his opinions to the contrary; as there had been several opportunities afforded him for that purpose, by a momentary silence.

Mangu was amongst the first, in general, that delivered their sentiments, but on the present occasion he cautiously, and cunningly, as he imagined, waited until the last. He thought he had ascertained the sentiments of the whole assembly, and all had spoken who had intended so to do, except himself. He therefore no longer remained silent, and thus began:—

"If the valiant Temugin had not been wedded to the fair princess, thy daughter, O mighty Khan, I should have ventured to submit that the patronage and influence thou hast been pleased to delegate to him, were too much; but however strongly I might have been impressed with this idea, I should have forborne, out of respect to thy superior judgment and wisdom, to have mentioned any thing of the kind, had it not been notorious that he has only

forwarded those in thy army, with very slight exceptions, who were mere adventurers; persons of neither family or fortune; or anything to lose in the state. What have they to defend? They have no hereditary possessions or domains, for an enemy to overrun. What can it be to them if hostile forces cover our wide Tartarian plains, and sweep away our flocks and herds? They have none to lose. What if our fairest towns and cities are destroyed by a merciless foe; and our strongest bulwarks battered into dust; where is the loss to them, who have nothing but their swords? They have no interest in the soil. War is their only dependance. It is their livelihood, as Hakem justly remarked. What matter then to them whom they serve; whether they fight for us, or against us? If the state should fall, most readily would they join the foes that brought us low, and lend their own aid to keep us down.

"Temugin was an adventurer; but he is an exception. His fidelity has been proved; his actions beyond all doubt have been great and splendid; and he is now bound by the strongest

ties of gratitude to thee, O gracious Khan: yet, what mischief, if he was so disposed, might he have done, and still might do? I merely speak for argument sake; but if mad ambition urged him on, he might endanger the throne itself by the army, constituted as it now is. Though the adventurers have little to lose, yet much would they expect to gain by seconding his designs; already they have found the advantage of courting his favour. That such as these are not persons calculated for high preferment, is evident; for instance, there are strong grounds of suspicion against Cafor, at the present moment. Who can answer for the rest? Hardly one of them is known at court, at least, till lately. Who can recommend them to any important service? We, who have been called to thy council, magnanimous prince, cannot form any correct opinion of them, because they were previously unknown to any of us; they have no connexions of weight or respectability to whom we could refer, and whose credit might be a kind of security for the loyalty of their behaviour. All therefore rests with Te-

mugin, and if he commits an error of judgment, or is biassed by partiality in selecting one only of these adventurers for a particular and important service, what injury might accrue to the state.

"For our relatives and friends we might be answerable; but for strangers, to us, we cannot; yet strangers have been advanced, and our relatives and friends have been passed over.

"Men of obscure origin, and doubtful principles, have command over those who are of high birth; and whose principles are well known to be most devoted and loyal to their prince.

"Grateful to Temugin must the adventurers be for the favour he has shewn them; and to him alone, I apprehend their gratitude will be confined. They are, as it were, an engine in his hands, which would move at his discretion; and with this powerful engine he could shake the foundation of the state. What care these bold and daring adventurers for our descent from ancient lineage, our titles, our wealth, and possessions? In their eyes, Temugin would outweigh them all. Pardon me,

therefore, mighty Khan, for intimating that Temugin is to the army what thou art to us.

"I will say no more, and trust that what I have already mentioned will not be erroneously attributed to ungenerous motives; but solely to that duty and respect which I owe my prince; to whom alone we ought to look up with reverence, and to whom alone our homage is due."

The courtier who had hitherto refrained from speaking, was distantly allied to the lady Kola, now the wife of the brave Altoun. She had given this relative some insight to Mangu's disposition, and urged the former, unknown to her husband, whose openess of mind might inadvertently divert her object, to use his endeavours to check the envious designs of that officious and intriguing character. This friend of Kola's was not in the habit of being often at court; but had recently attended, and affected high respect for Mangu; who considered him, therefore, as one of his own party, though he did not reveal any of his deep laid designs to him. This courtier came forward as soon as Mangu had

ceased speaking, and thus addressed the assembled council:—

"If any detriment had happened to thy service, O mighty Khan, by giving encouragement to those who are termed adventurers in thy army, I would be amongst the first of thy councillors to suggest a different system to that which has been adopted by the great commander of thy army; but when I reflect that he himself was an adventurer, and that he has proved one of the most faithful, valiant, skilful, and successful generals that ever led forth our troops to battle, I cannot but applaud thy magnanimity in rewarding them as their actions deserve.

"Those who merit encouragement should receive it, whatever their birth or parentage may be.

"It has been openly stated by Hakem, and Mangu, in particular, that mere adventurers cannot be depended upon like persons who are possessed of wealth and high connections. I think quite the reverse. Every thing rests on

their own conduct. Their only friends, then, are the meritorious deeds that they perform. If they actually enter the army for their livelihood, as it has been insinuated, so much the greater chance of their exerting themselves in the duties of their arduous and dangerous profession, to preserve that livelihood. Remissness on their part, and all their prospects, and their livelihood itself, are gone.

"Those who enter the army with an almost certain prospect of promotion, through the influence and interest of their great connections in the state, will not bear the toil, the privations, and the perils of war, with equal constancy, as those who know they must signalize themselves, or never rise. These latter are the men, O mighty Khan, whom the valiant Temugin has chiefly promoted; at least such has been the insinuation. What a reflection, then, is this, not on him, not on those who are contemptuously called needy adventurers; but on men of high birth and great connections, whose merit was inferior.

"Had I a friend or relative in the army, who

had been but slightly advanced, I should assign it to the proper cause, that his deeds deserved no greater advancement. I might be disappointed, and my friend, or relative, might complain; but his complaint would be unjust, and silence would become him best.

"Would Temugin, nay, I will venture to ask, durst Temugin have risked the displeasure of the Khan, by passing over the relatives and friends of his chief lords and courtiers, if they had well founded claims of meritorious services for promotion? Could he be so imprudent as to give such flagrant cause for dissatisfaction to the Khan himself; to whose ears such unworthy conduct would surely come? Is there an individual amongst us all, that has either friend or relative in the army, who would not take the first opportunity of complaining, and justly complaining, to our gracious prince, from whom he would readily obtain redress?

"I have not heard of an officer of high connections, who could with truth complain that he had signalized himself in the duties of his profession, without being duly rewarded for his

exertions. If there had been only one instance of neglect, one solitary instance, we should certainly have heard of it.

"The needy adventurer may be afraid to assert his claims; he has no friends at court to support them. Not so the high-born youth—his claims would be heard; his friends would support them; and he would feel certain that the Khan would cause justice to be done to his merit.

"Where has been the undue partiality of the great victorious leader?

"Was the brave Altoun a needy adventurer? We all know he was of noble birth. Has he not attained high preferment? Was he not selected by Temugin himself, as his second in command? He was; and it affords an evident proof that the judicious chief has shewn impartiality in promoting those the most, who have most deserved.

"Grant that one officer of obscure descent, if he was really of obscure descent, but of long tried valour, had been advanced to high rank for his gallant exploits, and had, notwithstand-

ing: yielded to temptation, and become disloyal: are we to draw the inference from thence, that men of high birth alone are loyal? That men of wealth alone are exempt from temptation? Have those of birth, and wealth combined, never been found disloyal? Do wily intrigues and dark designs, never engage the minds of their great connections in the state? Does envy never prompt their tongues to sully higher worth; and create mischief and confusion, to attain their selfish ends? Does ambition never fire their high-born souls to raise their own importance, to seek their own advantage, even to the danger of the common weal.

"To me it seems a strange remark of noble Mangu, that those adventurers that enter in our army, merely, as he intimates, to procure their livelihood, would reckless see our plains with rapacious foes o'erspread; our flocks and herds in wild disorder swept away; our fairest cities and our towns destroyed, with our strongest bulwarks battered into dust. If adventurers procure their living by the state they serve; if they meet with due reward; how can they be

indifferent to the welfare of the state by which they are supported and rewarded?

"Under their renowned leader, the adventurers bravely fought, and drove the invaders quickly from our soil. Under great Temugin They have proved their zeal and valour against superior numbers, in many a hard fought field. They have freely shed their blood for the state they had engaged to serve; and though oft neglected for those of higher birth, they have still been faithful found.

"The brave adventurer, whom Temugin at length rewarded for his long deserts, was covered with wounds and scars; and signalized himself in many scenes of danger; with only slight promotion. No suspicion of a doubtful nature ever stained his name before; though ill-rewarded was his merit. Many long years he served with bravery, zeal, and loyalty; and as he for many years was loyal proved, let us, for some few days at least, suspend our judgment on the present charges brought against him. We have no proof that he is now disloyal. Where are his secret accusers? From whom

did the intimation come that his fidelity was now so doubtful?

"Pardon me, mighty Khan, if in the ardour of debate, I proceed too far. Where thou art present, I would always reverence show, and thy permission I would crave, to speak my sentiments with openess and candour.

"I know not Cafor, but have heard his story. Shall all his past deeds of merit be forgot, because he has no great connections at the court? He is accused, but no proof of guilt has yet been shewn. From whom, or whence, the accusation came, this we know, that Temugin, who has been his patron and his friend, is absent. He has left the suspected officer to stand or fall, by his own innocence or guilt, as facts are proved.

"A few words more with thy permission, mighty Khan, and I have done.

"When numerous hosts approached our capital, and the great leader was employed in a distant part, one of thy generals, named Manzor, was called forth to oppose them. He, I believe, was not one of those who had been what is

termed an adventurer, for he was strongly recommended to his prince, by those who now allege that they can answer for their friends.

"Manzor met the foes, but was defeated; his troops, at a most critical period, were all dispersed, and himself taken prisoner. What answer do his great connections make to this? Awkward proof it was how much more securely we may depend on officers of great connections in the state; and it serves to shew the officious zeal of some, in its proper light, who attempt to influence the wiser judgment of our mighty Khan.

"I have freely spoken. I now have done."

Mangu and his party were astonished at this courtier's speech. Instead of his sentiments being in unison with their own, they were completely the reverse, and delivered with more than usual freedom in the presence of the Khan. They were at a loss how to reply, but unwilling to yield to the arguments in opposition to their own.

After some little pause, Mangu replied:—

"I apprehend that circumstances are too strong against Cafor, for that officer to clear himself

from suspicion of disloyalty, however strong the advocates for needy adventurers may plead their cause. I know him not, except by name.

"I will not trespass on the patience of the Khan, which I fear, must be already wearied, in replying at large to the long premeditated speech which has just been made. The arguments I have no doubt that I could with ease refute, but it might be a needless waste of words.

"Mighty Khan, I believe that there is but one dissentient in our council; the courtier who last spoke. Not often to the council does he come, and, with the exception of himself, the rest do coincide with what Hakem and myself have stated."

"Our gracious Khan has heard my sentiments," resumed the courtier, "and that is enough for me; but I have briefly to remark that I, likewise, have no knowledge of Cafor; nor did I come forward with intent to advocate his cause. I have only intimated that, though he may be suspected, we should suspend our judgment until facts are adduced, and not in-

dulge antipathy against adventurers in general. This would be unjust, even if one amongst the number had actually been proved disloyal.

"Mangu's declaration that he knows not Cafor, appears superfluous to me. Mangu will know none but those of exalted birth. He knows none that are humbly born, however great their worth. It seems that those of high merit, if lowly born, the noble Mangu looks upon with scorn.

"Those who are termed adventurers may sometimes claim as proud descent as noble Mangu, though not possessed of wide domains, or half his wealth."

"No more," exclaimed the Khan. "I have listened with patience to your debates, but they now approach to personality, and offend me. I will hear no more."

The Khan withdrew, and the council was immediately dissolved.

Mangu had seldom experienced so much vexation as the speech in council from the courtier, in opposition to his own sentiments, had occasioned him. This courtier was a relative of

Kola's he knew perfectly well, but he was not aware at the time that he was friendly disposed towards Temugin; so completely had Mangu been deceived by the courtier's previous behaviour. He was almost confounded when he reflected upon his own speech, for he had previously imagined that not one of the assembled courtiers would have dissented from it. On the contrary, it had been strongly opposed by one, who, unexpectedly, appeared to be completely in the interest of Temugin. What he himself had said would now probably be promulgated, and reach the ears of that great commander, whom he had been trying to prejudice in his absence.

It was too late for Mangu to retract. There was now a witness against him to what he had spoken before the Khan. He knew that he had divulged quite enough to betray his secret enmity towards Temugin. He had not only condemned the latter's system of encouraging and rewarding adventurers in the army, but he had openly asserted that they might be compared to an engine in the hands of Temugin, with which

the foundation of the state might be shook. What were these words but an attempt to create suspicion, to raise the jealousy, and alarm the mind of the Khan, against one to whom he had entrusted so much power. The meaning could not be mistook; the intimation was too plain.

"Curse on the previous taciturnity of that profound dissembler," exclaimed Mangu, in private. "When Hakem and the others spoke, he seemed to listen with looks of approbation; or I would have been more guarded before him. I conceived that all of us were unanimous; and that all had delivered their sentiments before I undertook to speak myself, and enforce what the others had stated, by stronger arguments of my own. It is now evident that this dissembling courtier purposely remained silent to deceive me; and the hints that he subsequently made in reply, about wily intrigues and dark designs, were meant to apply personally to myself; or I am much mistaken. Perhaps he attended at court lately by desire of the princess, to watch my proceedings in the absence of Temugin.

"My plans are deeply laid, but this courtier has occasioned me no small disturbance. The crisis will be hastened in consequence. I must proceed with my designs, and act with energy. I cannot retract; I must not hesitate. There is no alternative for me now.

"It has come to this; either Mangu or Temugin must inevitably fall into disgrace. One important circumstance, however, is on my side; the Khan is in no apprehension from me. I have no popularity in the army to disquiet, or cause him any serious alarm, like Temugin; who is so great a favourite among the troops. I can clearly perceive that my insinuations about the Tartar leader's influence over the army, have already had some weight on the mind of the Khan; and it is certainly true that the former might endanger the throne itself, if he was so inclined. In stating these things, I have not gone beyond the truth, whatever my motives may be. Still I am vexed that I spoke so openly before the courtier, who turned out to be a strenuous advocate for the conduct of Temugin. Nevertheless, my plots begin to ripen.

The messenger that was dispatched in haste with the summons to Cafor, is one of my dependants. Agreeably to my secret instructions, no summons will this messenger deliver Cafor, whose non-appearance here, in compliance with the peremptory orders sent for him to repair to court, without delay, will be construed into certain guilt; and serve to heighten the prejudice that the Khan begins to feel against Temugin, for promoting that officer so highly. I shall improve upon this by fresh insinuations. I have reason to think that this renowned leader, as he is called, will remain at the distant frontier fortress until he hears from the Khan; and the former will likewise have some employment for his mind, in vainly endeavouring to trace the mysterious source of information about disorders in the garrison, when he finds that none did exist; save the trifling circumstance of one man having committed some petty thefts, and then deserted; which my agent acquainted me with, and thereby furnished me with the idea of fabricating the account which the Khan received.

"I hope my emissary will not be at length detected. He has tried to create disorder and discontent; but his success has been confined to the desertion of one man, and a piece of intelligence which I have made subservient to my objects. It was, that Cafor had been at the garrison to visit an officer there; and soon afterwards received a friendly visit from another belonging to a neighbouring state. One grand point I have already gained, in causing Temugin's departure to a distance from the court, to enquire in person about the state of the garrison, as I expected. My fertile imagination must be at work to improve, in his absence, what I have successfully begun."

Mangu now went to consult with Hakem; but unfortunately met in his way the courtier who had opposed him in council, and from whom he received a scrutinizing glance not very agreeable to his own feelings; which, however, he kept under restraint, and returned a fawning salute as the other passed.

Mangu found Hakem, with whom he had a long deliberation; but was too wary to reveal

all his insidious projects even to him, for fear that Hakem should feel repugnance to concur with them to their full extent.

On retiring to his apartment at night, Mangu was intently revolving in his mind what he had yet to contrive in order to secure success in his projects; and time glided unheeded away, until he suddenly found that the hours of night had nearly passed; and that the time was fast approaching when weak and guilty minds felt most the terrors of superstition's power. I will go to repose, thought he, before the dreary midnight hour arrives. With this intent he took up the lamp, and cried out, with an ironical air;

Temugin, thou art far away,
And clouds begin to dim thy ray;
Thy ray which erst did brightly shine,
Shall yet ere long give way to mine:
Thou shalt not long exalted be,
Above such high-born lords as me.
This light I hold will soon decay;
So will thy splendour fade away.

Mangu forthwith opened the door to the inner room, when something like a gust of wind burst full upon his face, accompanied with a hollow murmuring noise, which made him start.

From the unsteady hand of Mangu dropped the extinguished lamp. In darkness now he heard these words pronounced, with slow and solemn sounds:—

Thou proud, intriguing lord beware,
Or thou may'st fall in thy own snare,
With all thy subtlety and care.
Let Mangu speedy warning take;
Let his conscience quick awake;
His wily arts may all be known;
His base designs be overthrown.
Time, ere long, may discover all,
And treach'rous Mangu justly fall!

With consternation was the guilty Mangu filled. He groped the way to his couch, threw himself upon it, and closely covered his head. In a kind of stupor he remained a considerable time, and then slumbered for a few hours; but

as the day broke forth, he awoke; when the Evil Genius that ruled his thoughts, led him to imagine that he had merely dreamed, and that he had nothing to apprehend.

Bright the morning sun began to shine, as Mangu rose to cheer himself by inhaling the fragrant air; but as he passed the antechamber he beheld where his lamp still laid. A few moments he gazed in silence upon it, and then hurried away, endeavouring to banish from his mind all recollection of the circumstance that occurred to him on the preceding night.

WHILST envious insinuations were made at court against Temugin, he was pursuing his way to the distant fortress on the frontiers, where, as soon as he arrived, his presence was hailed with loud acclamations from the troops in the garrison, who were rejoiced to behold their victorious leader. He lost no time in making enquiries into the disorders which, according to the information sent to the Khan, had been committed there; and he was most agreeably surprised to learn that not the smallest insubordination ever took place; and that not even the slightest symptoms of discontent had ever been manifested, except in the single instance of an individual, who had deserted; and to this, it was discovered, that he had been prompted by a

bribe of money from some designing person, who had come to the garrison, and secretly attempted to seduce several of the soldiers from their duty; but having failed in effecting that object, he suddenly disappeared, to escape detection; and had not since been seen or heard of. From a very strict investigation, Temugin ascertained that this insidious agent was a native Tartar; not a person from any of the neighbouring states, with which the Khan had formerly been at war.

The most vigilant enquiry and search was made after the designing emissary, for several successive days, in vain. Temugin then forwarded an express to the court, stating that the garrison was in a perfectly tranquil condition; that no excesses had been committed; and that there had been no grounds whatever for the intimation that had been sent to the Khan, relative to the insubordination imputed to the troops in the fortress; which must, therefore, have originated from the malicious invention of some insidious person whom, it was hoped,

would hereafter be discovered and punished for such flagrant behaviour.

Temugin concluded by observing that he was merely waiting the Khan's commands to return, as there was nothing to require his presence at the fortress.

The cautious leader prudently made the excuse of waiting for the Khan's commands previous to his return, because he wished it to be apparent that he had no desire to screen Cafor, whom he had formerly patronized; and whom he thought was by this time arrived at court, and undergoing an examination for his alleged disloyalty.

Temugin had gathered the information that Cafor was actually at the fortress, two, or three weeks, before his own arrival there, on a visit to one of the officers belonging to it; but nothing further; and he entertained strong hopes that the gallant veteran would be able to clear himself from all suspicion of disloyalty, to the full satisfaction of the Khan; and that the accusation against him would be proved as

groundless as the account respecting disorders in the garrison.

If it turned out that Cafor was innocent, then it would admit of no doubt that intrigues of a mischievous tendency were going on in some quarter; and that quarter Temugin suspected must be the court; and likewise that those intrigues were chiefly intended to prejudice himself.

During this time, the Khan was reminded by the artful Mangu, that Cafor had not made his appearance in obedience to the summons that had been dispatched to him for that purpose; nor had he deigned even to return an answer. If that officer was innocent he could have nothing to apprehend; and if he had been indisposed, and unable to appear immediately, in compliance with the summons, it was his duty to have made it known at once. As Mangu had trusted, the Khan was now confirmed in the opinion that the gallant Cafor was guilty, and that thinking himself suspected, by a summons having been sent to him, he was afraid to come forward.

" Temugin has acted very incautiously in the instance of Cafor," observed the Khan.

Mangu intimated that it was the first fruit of the system which had been so extensively adopted of giving encouragement to unknown adventurers; whose chief merit was that of a bold and restless spirit. As to their fidelity to the throne, he could not help doubting it; and the conduct of Cafor, who had unfortunately been so highly patronized, had increased his doubts. He apprehended that Cafor's disaffection was a prelude to more; which might spread far, and wide; and ultimately create much trouble to the Khan, and to the state. To Temugin himself, who had been their patron, these bold and restless adventurers might be attached.

" Pardon me, mighty Khan," continued the insidious Mangu, " for once more hinting that thy general possesses a dangerous power through the manner in which he has constituted the army. At the risk of thy displeasure, I must confess that it fills me and all thy loyal courtiers with deep concern, in reflecting that the throne

is at the mercy of the leader of thy troops. Bound down to thee he certainly is by the strongest ties of gratitude, but if through any accidental circumstance he should take offence, the army with which he has rendered himself so popular, on hearing of the fancied grievance that he felt, might seize the opportunity of impelling him on the throne, even contrary to his own previous intention. Thy chief lords, and courtiers, who are so devoted to thee, have at present but few connections, comparatively speaking, in the army, at least of rank sufficient to be check on any disloyal designs. They have been kept back, and officers only known to Temugin have been placed above them. I respect the great talents of the Tartar leader; I know he has performed many splendid actions; but by the aid of bold and unprincipled adventurers, he could accomplish any design, however selfish, that he might in a capricious moment be induced, by their insinuations, to attempt."

Mangu observed the countenance of the Khan whilst he spoke, and saw with malicious, but

secret exultation, the deep impression that his remarks had made.

The Khan was silent for a few momeuts, and then exclaimed, " Thy observations, O Mangu, may proceed from overzeal. Temugin may undoubtedly have great influence over the army; but I am reluctant to believe that he would ever make use of the power I have entrusted him with, to my detriment. I have conferred rewards and honours upon him, and he cannot be so ungrateful. I have placed my highest confidence in him, and I cannot see what motives should induce him to abuse it."

" He is too close to thy throne, mighty Khan," resumed Mangu, " if mad ambition swayed his mind; and there are no obstacles in his way to check it but his own gratitude: if that should in an evil hour depart from Temugin, the consequence might be most dangerous to his sovereign. These are not the remarks of myself alone, but of all thy courtiers, with a single exception."

The Khan, with considerable emotion, de-

sired Mangu to make no more of those remarks at present, but leave him to deliberate in private upon what he had already heard with great reluctance and pain.

Mangu withdrew, congratulating himself on having spoke so decidedly to the Khan, who had heard his remarks, though with much reluctance. The insidious courtier doubted not that he had now struck an important blow. No half measures on his own part would do. The crisis he considered was fast approaching, and he must act with energy, or fall himself. The Khan had dismissed him rather in displeasure, but had in the first place, listened to what Mangu had urged. The poison had glided to the ears of the Khan, and would infect his mind with incurable suspicion and apprehension of Temugin; so the envious courtier confidently trusted; but the latter had yet to beware that the object of his malicious insinuations did not too soon return.

Now left by himself, the Khan imprudently gave way to the most painful reflections arising from the artful representations of Mangu, which

he had weakly listened to. He should, in the first instance, have stopped the invidious courtier's tongue. Temugin was no stranger to himself; he should have formed his own judgment of that great commander from the past conduct of the latter, and not hearkened to the remarks of others; but he had hearkened, and he now deliberated and re-deliberated upon them, which caused the injurious tendency of the subtle courtier's words to sink still deeper in his mind.

The Khan reflected upon the consequence that might result to himself, if any unfortunate circumstance should arise to make Temugin inimical to the throne. On the one hand, his better judgment suggested to him, that he had a right to expect the continuance of the same fidelity and gratitude from the commander of his forces, as he had hitherto experienced. On the other hand, suspicion and jealousy pointed out to him the possibility of harmony being interrupted between himself and Temugin; and the chance of the army taking umbrage at any

fancied slight that its renowned and favourite leader might receive.

The army was indeed a powerful engine, according to the remarks of Mangu, with which Temugin could shake the throne. Contrary to his own disposition, the bold and daring adventurers, who had been promoted by their great commander, might impel him to seize the reins of sovereign power.

It pained the Khan exceedingly to reflect upon the bare possibility of such an event. He considered the expediency of contriving some means to diminish the influence and popularity of Temugin; but how to act he could not determine. If he took the advice of his courtiers, he took the advice of persons who were evidently prejudiced against Temugin, because he had not recommended higher promotion to their friends and relatives; and such was the infirmity of human nature, that it often did injustice, by harbouring envy and jealousy against superior merit.

Great talents and splendid achievements, had raised Temugin to an elevation above the chief

lords and courtiers. This had created envy and jealousy in their minds, and his influence over the army had engendered suspicion and apprehension, which they had partly succeeded in communicating to the Khan himself.

They had alleged that Temugin possessed the power to endanger the throne; but the question to be impartially considered was, whether he had the disposition to endanger it, although he might have the means?

What if Temugin was close to the throne, with the willing army at his back? How could he ascend it to the prejudice of his benefactor and sovereign?

Gratitude had hitherto prevented this renowned and victorious leader, from infringing upon the smallest prerogative of the Khan. Was it at all probable then that he would ever think of usurping his throne?

No! Not all the troops, by whom he was so much beloved, could induce him to the attempt. Strong gratitude would forbid: gratitude with him would be stronger than all their force.

Gratitude would prevent him, in spite of their united persuasions, and their proffered aid.

* * * * *

But should ambition—ambition, that powerful incentive to the enterprising, the fortunate, and brave—should ambition infatuate the soul of Temugin; should it fire his sight, and loudly sound into his ears, "Behold that splendid throne! By one bold step it is thy own."

Great Temugin advance; ambition shall guide thy fearless step. Canst thou hesitate?

When ambition calls, weak is gratitude. See it already totters! Lo! it falls!

* * * * *

"Shall I then weakly give way to the fears of imagination?" cried the Khan, after contemplating these visionary dangers. "Why should ambition prevail over gratitude, and incite Temugin to disloyalty?

"I cannot calmly reason on the subject, because suspicion has already disturbed my mind. In my heart I have condemned the insinuations

of Mangu, and the courtiers; yet have I suffered myself to be influenced by their suggestions.

"In vain I look back to the past conduct of Temugin; in vain I reflect upon his long-tried fidelity; suspicion still whispers, that after having rose so high, after having climbed the rugged mountain's steep ascent, he may fix his eyes upon its loftiest point, and wish to stand supreme. My powerful hand was extended towards him, and assisted him to reach the height but just below myself. If one step more he advances, I must myself give way.

"Then, as I am yet above him, I must make a vigorous effort for my own safety, and cast him down; but though I have the advantage of the higher ground, he may stand perhaps more firmly than myself, with willing troops embodied in his rear; a strong support. Will they forsake their favourite leader, and obey my orders? Will they be awed at once by me, who hold the sceptre, and possess the throne?

"Will the rank, the splendour, and the wealth

of my proudest lords, make the soldiers' arrows pointless, or blunt their swords?

"Not all my grandees, with their heaps of wealth, and long hereditary rank, of which they vainly boast, could stop the troops, if their conquering leader called. Awed perhaps by myself, their sovereign, they might be; but no other save Temugin would they care for, and to him they doubtless would incline in preference even to me. His renowned name might outweigh with them my sovereign title of the Khan. What support would be left for me in case of rupture with him! Grant that all the chief men, and grandees of my state, with one accord, would rally round my throne; and every one of those that envied Temugin, on my side would firmly stand, they might be as dust before the wind, if he had the troops at his command.

"What then remains?

"How must I act?

"How guard against the evil that may come?

* * * * *

" Temugin must be displaced;—but my danger from him is but fancied, after all!

* * * * *

" I am in doubt. Suspense I cannot endure; and to a decision I must come!

* * * * *

" It must be so then!

" I will begin, and change the governor of the strong adjacent castle. To-morrow, I will appoint another; one whom the courtiers recommend, and one he certainly will be, who is no friend of Temugin.

" So far I have decided; but farther measures I must in consequence take. Where will this beginning find an end?

" My thoughts are troubled, and long it will be before Ung Khan knows repose again.

" Thou dreadful guest, suspicion, how oft dost thou intrude upon the mightiest of monarchs, and cause them dearly to pay for their exalted state. Thou art too frequently near a throne. Where power and splendour dwell, how often art thou lurking near. The peasant in his

humble cottage seldom knows thee: when his daily toil is done, he seeks his home; partakes his simple and his hearty meal; then shortly after to repose retires,—peaceful he sleeps, and fears no ill. Not so, with suspicion in his breast, can Ung Khan in his stately palace rest.

THE courtiers were rejoiced to learn that the Khan had determined to change the commander of the adjacent castle; and they soon agreed on recommending another officer to his choice, on whom they imagined they could with confidence depend, and he was accordingly appointed without delay.

On the next day arrived the despatch from Temugin, stating that the troops in the frontier fortress were tranquil and well-disposed, and that there had been no foundation whatever for the report which the Khan had received to the contrary. Mangu had anticipated this account from the absent leader, and was prepared to exert his own artifice and effrontery in counteracting the effects of the despatch. He scrupled

not to aver that it was now completely proved that there was a secret conspiracy in agitation amongst some of the officers in the army, and that they had taken this method to create embarrassment and confusion; and that it might also be a trick to get their favourite leader amongst them, to countenance their deep-laid designs.

"How could they venture to reveal their designs to Temugin, whilst they had every reason to suppose that he enjoyed my confidence, and was satisfied?" hastily demanded the Khan.

"They might first sound him in a cautious way," replied Mangu, "and try by degrees to work upon his ambition; but if Temugin's loyalty and fidelity proved inflexible, there would certainly be some risk for them to run. The adventurers, however, may continue to think they cannot repay their gratitude to Temugin until they seat him on the throne to which they know he is so near. There is the danger, mighty Khan.—The commander of thy forces is too near the throne. He is their rising sun, and for thy own security this idol of theirs

must be removed, or thou mayest never be free from disturbance. That is the decided opinion of all those most zealously devoted to thee."

"If, then, I am guided by your united opinions, on your heads ought to fall the consequences," sharply observed the Khan. If your advice is erroneous, on yourselves must rest the reproach."

"Let us bear reproach, mighty Khan, if reproach there can be, in tendering that advice we think is best. Willingly will we risk reproach to see our prince beyond the reach, beyond the remotest chance, of any attempt to cloud the lustre of his throne."

The Khan gave orders for all the courtiers to be summoned to a council, except him who on a former occasion had singly opposed the sentiments of the rest; and it was decided, after a long discussion, and some hesitation and reluctance on the part of the Khan, which required much address in the courtiers to surmount, that Temugin should be suddenly seized on his return, and placed in close confinement, with as much secrecy as possible, to prevent the circum-

stances coming to the knowledge of the troops. The officers, and those who were supposed to be most attached to Temugin, were to be removed by degrees, to give place to the friends of the chief lords and courtiers; and whilst these precautions were adopting in the first instance, a despatch was to be sent to the absent commander for the purpose of delaying his return for at least a week, or ten days longer, under the pretext that he would have a fuller opportunity of discovering if there was the smallest symptom of disaffection concealed in the minds of any of the officers, or troops around the station where he was.

In the mean time, Cafor, who resided at a retired place, which he had purchased on easy terms, about two days' journey from the fortress to which Temugin had went, heard by chance that the latter was there, and immediately determined not to lose the opportunity of paying his respects in person to the renowned leader, who had been his great patron. He, therefore, set off for the place, although he was uncertain how long Temugin would remain

at the fortress, and whether his own journey might not be fruitless. However, the gallant Cafor's gratitude made him eager to proceed at a venture; but an accidental circumstance prolonged his journey nearly a whole day; for having occasion to dismount on the road, his horse became frightened at the appearance of some peasants who had been carousing, and the animal starting off at full speed across the country, was several hours before he could be caught again.

On Cafor's arrival at length near the fortress, he had nevertheless the pleasure to learn, on enquiry from a soldier whom he met, that Temugin was still there.

When Cafor was announced, Temugin was much surprised, and began seriously to consider whether it was possible that the gallant officer could have been at court; cleared himself from the imputation of disloyalty to the satisfaction of the Khan, and returned such a distance in so short a space of time.

Whilst Temugin was considering the matter, Cafor appeared before him, and having paid his

respects to the great commander, the latter exchanged a few indifferent words with the suspected officer, and then enquired if he had been at court already, and had an audience with the Khan.

Cafor instantly replied that he had not been near the court; for since the permission that had been granted him to return to his wife and family, a short time after peace was concluded, he had not left them except once to pay a visit of a few days to an officer in a neighbouring state; and at the same time he took the opportunity of calling at the fortress to see an old acquaintance who had been appointed to a situation there. No other journey had he taken from his home, where in calm retirement he lived, enjoying the sweets of domestic life.

"I have received so many favours from thy hand, illustrious chief," continued Cafor, "and am so grateful for them, that most assuredly I should have waited upon thee had I approached any where near thy residence; and though I live far remote from court, it was my intention shortly to have made a journey thither, pur-

posely to renew my grateful thanks for thy kind and generous patronage to me, whilst I served under thy immediate command; and haply fought under thy experienced eye."

"How is it," demanded Temugin, looking rather sternly at him, "that Cafor has so long delayed attending to the summons which enjoined him to appear immediately at court? Why did he lose time in coming here to wait on me? His first duty is owing to the Khan.

"Let Cafor prove his loyalty to the sovereign, and not presume to trifle time away, and excuse himself by paying respect to me, in the first instance."

The gallant officer was surprized at the questions of Temugin, and hurt at the manner in which he spoke.

After a moment's pause, Cafor answered, "I have received no summons of any kind to appear at court; nor was I aware that my attendance was required since I was allowed to retire to the bosom of my family, after the long absence from my home.

"I thought I had proved my loyalty to the Khan by deeds; and should my services be again required, I trust it will be found that the zeal of Cafor is not diminished, but increased by the rewards that have been bestowed upon him. Illustrious chief, I am grateful to thee, and loyal to my prince."

Temugin, and Cafor, fixed their eyes upon each other, for a few moments, in mutual surprise.

At length Temugin said, "I cannot believe that a gallant and distinguished officer like Cafor would tell me a deliberate falsehood; but a summons was certainly dispatched for his immediate attendance at court, previous to my own departure."

Cafor exclaimed, with emotion, "Sooner should this sword, which has often been dyed in the blood of my country's foes, shed the last drop of my own, before I would stain my name with a mean, deliberate falsehood; and thou art the last person in the world before whom I would equivocate.

"Illustrious leader, no summons has been delivered to me; nor has any messenger from court been at my residence."

"It is most strange," resumed Temugin.

"An intimation was sent to the Khan that this garrison was in disorder. I hastened hither in consequence, and found that the intimation was false. Let not thy feelings be hurt, gallant Cafor, when I tell thee, that the Khan likewise received private information that there were strong reasons to suspect thy loyalty; which aspersion I doubt not thou wilt be able to make appear as false as the report about this garrison."

Cafor expressed his astonishment at what had been communicated to him by Temugin; and declared that every word and action of his life, would bear testimony to his loyalty.

Temugin felt quite convinced of it, and only wished Cafor just to explain what occasioned him to pay a visit to some person in a neighbouring state; as that circumstance might have given rise to the malicious insinuation alluded to.

Cafor was ready to explain the cause of his

visit to the neighbouring state, without the smallest hesitation; for he had given no just reason for suspicion throughout the whole of his conduct, from his early youth to the present moment. He had always made fidelity his guide, nor would he lose sight of it to the latest period of his life.

Cafor's account of his visit to a neighbouring state:—

"In the late war, the officer whom I have recently visited in the adjoining state, was engaged against the army under thy command, renowned chief. Our enemies had collected all their force to make a stand, and if possible, check thy victorious and rapid career.

"A great battle was fought, and our foes completely overthrown.

"In that battle, this officer though unsuccessful, highly distinguished himself; and made a most gallant resistance with a small body of chosen troops, to cover the retreat of a division of the hostile army. It was my fortune at length to advance against him. As I pressed forward I could perceive, by the blood that

flowed from him, that he was severely wounded, and it was evident from his manner that he was incapable himself of making any farther exertion. I, therefore, called out for him to yield at once, and no longer contend in vain.

"At the moment after I had spoke the words, an arrow from a Tartar bow pierced his side; and one of our men rushed furious on, and would have cut him down, exhausted and wounded as he was, had not my arm quickly interposed, and stopped the blow.

"The gallant foe, however, fell.

"I admired the valour he had displayed, and commisserated his fate. From the ground I raised him, and drew with care the arrow from his side, and staunched the wounds he had received. He feebly grasped my hand, and gave me a look of gratitude, but spoke not. I then placed him in charge of one of my men who was near, and desired him to treat the wounded captive as a brave but luckless foe deserved.

"When the fight was over, I hastened to him, cheered him with a refreshing cordial that

I brought, and had the satisfaction to learn, from time to time, that he was doing well.

In short, as soon as I thought the wounded captive had gained sufficient strength to undertake the journey, I applied to the brave Altoun on his behalf, and solicited him to intercede with thee for the captive officer's release; that he might return to his friends, and experience their humane care to complete his recovery.

"As I expected from the generous disposition of the brave Altoun, he did mention the case to thyself, and orders were given in consequence that the gallant wounded foe should be restored to liberty; on condition of not bearing arms against us for the future.

"Previous to his departure, he came and expressed his gratitude to me in the most glowing terms; declared that I had preserved his life, and had also been the means of his speedy release from captivity; and that he would never forget the obligations he was under to me.

"When peace subsequently was made, this officer enquired diligently after me; travelled to

our capital for that purpose, and heard at last with certainty where I resided.

"He came, and brought with him a most costly present, which I refused to accept. I conceived it an excess of generosity, and that his grateful thanks to me for what I had done were quite sufficient. He appeared much hurt at my refusal of his present, stating that he was affluent, and that the whole of his wealth could not repay the obligations he was under to me.

"As I would not receive his present, he strongly urged me to pay him a visit, and partake of his hospitality; or he should return with a heavy heart to his amiable wife and friends. I yielded to his request, for his manners pleased me, and paid him a visit as he resided at no great distance from our frontiers; and all was peace around. I enjoyed his hospitality for a few days, and then returned to my home.

"Unknown to me, he had, in the meantime, sent a superb bow and quiver of arrows, with a valuable horse, as a present for my eldest boy.

"The steed, which I highly prize as a gift of friendship, I rode hither.

"Illustrious leader, the statement I have made is strictly correct. With the utmost reverence to the Khan, and respect to thyself, I challenge the strictest scrutiny into my conduct; I will fearlessly meet any charges that may be brought against me, from whatever quarter they may proceed; and I defy any one to fix dishonour on my name."

Temugin had listened with attention to the recital of the gallant Cafor, and was highly satisfied with the explanation he had made.

The Tartar leader recollected the circumstance of Altoun having applied to him for the release of a wounded captive officer, at the request of Cafor, and of his having mentioned at the same time that the latter had spoken very feelingly to him in the captive's behalf.

"Gallant Cafor," cried Temugin, "I admire thy conduct throughout the whole affair which thou hast frankly narrated to me, and I rejoice to find that thou art so highly worthy of the advancement thou hast obtained through my

recommendation. Rely upon the friendship of Temugin, and remain here my guest for the present. We must have some farther conversation about these mischievous reports that have been secretly transmitted to the Khan respecting thyself, as well as this garrison.

"They cannot have originated from error; but are evidently concerted plans, insidiously intended to lead to some ulterior object, which I am anxious to discover."

In the meantime at the court of Ung Khan, Kola's relative, having found himself excluded from the summons to the last council, although it was known that he was ready to attend, attributed the circumstance to the prevailing influence of Mangu and his party, whose sentiments he had recently opposed. He concluded from this, that the Khan was inclined to listen to the suggestions of Temugin's secret enemies in his absence; and the grandee strongly suspected that some measures were in agitation most seriously to affect the great leader of the troops.

How was Kola's relative himself to act?

Considered as a friend to Temugin, he had already been excluded from the secret councils of the Khan. It was now necessary, he thought, for himself to proceed with great caution and circumspection.

If he sought an interview with the princess, and hinted to her, that from his own observations he suspected the Khan, her father, encouraged evils designs against her absent husband, he might involve himself in trouble for disclosing what had transpired at the council. It would likewise make her acquainted with an unpleasant truth, and if she interfered, if she remonstrated with the Khan, it might only cause the latter to treat her with harshness. He might forget the father in the sovereign; his daughter, in the wife of Temugin; and the princess, too, in her zeal to vindicate her husband, might forget her father was the Khan.

The return of Temugin at once, might check the evil designed against him, for the present; it might, indeed, stop altogether the secret proceedings of the ill-disposed courtiers, if they had

not already succeeded in absolutely infatuating the mind of the Khan.

After duly considering the matter, Kola's relative decided on sending a trusty messenger to Temugin, at the distant fortress, to apprize him that some of the courtiers were intriguing against him, and using their strenuous endeavours to undermine his credit, and influence, during his absence. He procured a trusty messenger accordingly, and gave him directions to set off privately, and pursue his way with celerity to the fortress on the frontiers; to keep his mission a profound secret from every one, and deliver the despatch, with which he was charged, to none but Temugin himself, on any account whatever.

Kola's relative having dispatched the messenger to Temugin, returned to court; assuming an easy cheerful air, as if he was quite indifferent to what was going on. He accosted Mangu, Hakem, and some more of the party with civility, but finding them cold and reserved in return, and that his presence was by no means agreeable amongst them, he soon decided on taking

his departure for his own residence in the vicinity; where he intended to remain quiet until he heard of the arrival of Temugin.

As this upright and honourable grandee was withdrawing from the palace, he observed the princess, whom he had not seen for some time before. She appeared unwell, and he approached towards her to pay his respects; after which, with a view of cheering her spirits, he intimated that her illustrious spouse would in all probability shortly return; and if he was aware that his amiable princess was unwell, it would doubtless hasten his journey back.

The princess signified that she had lately heard from Temugin, who was awaiting the Khan's orders for his return from the distant fortress; and that she had been surprised to find that there had not been the least foundation for the report that drew him so far away. The affair was a mystery to her.

Kola's relative briefly hinted that time might disclose the mystery.

"Surely I can rely upon thy probity at least," cried the princess in a plaintive tone;

" for I have heard thee mentioned in very high terms by thy relative, the lady Kola, who, I know, would not deceive me. She possessed much discernment, and was in my confidence. I will then tell her noble relative what I have already told the Khan, my father.

" Temugin has enemies; secret enemies at court; who have access, frequent access, to their sovereign's ear; and whom, I will not scruple to assert, their sovereign ought not to encourage. It degrades his dignity, it tarnishes the lustre of his throne, to allow them to approach so near. He should refuse to hearken to their secret insinuations, and if they dared to persist, he should exert his authority, and drive them from his presence in disgrace.

" Excuse me, I may have spoken too far. I am a female, and some allowance must be made for our weakness. Our tongues occasionally may express our feelings too strongly, and I must not forget that my father is the Khan; nor will I forget," added the princess, raising her voice, " that Temugin is my husband; that Temugin is a name renowned; with whom

compared, some courtiers I could mention, high in rank, and in my father's favour, are but as feathers to the wind."

After a little pause, Kola's relative admitted that he thought the Khan had some evil councillors too near his presence, and that it would be better if they were kept at a greater distance.

"In a word," exclaimed the princess, "art thou a friend of the potent, wealthy, but artful lord, Mangu?

"Thou art silent!

"Thou art not a friend to Mangu at least, or thou wouldst not hold thy tongue. Discretion makes thee refrain from speaking against one who is so much in my father's confidence; but I will speak now my mind is hurt.

"Yes, I will plainly speak, even if my words should reach the hearing of the Khan upon his throne.

"Let Mangu beware!

"The mighty lion's rage may be provoked, and his strength, when exerted, may crush the

wily fox, whose fawning arts may prove a poor defence against the lion's wrath.

"I am but a woman, but if I must have a foe to contend against, let that foe be an open one; then I would be upon my guard; but a secret foe might wound me unawares.

"Tartar lord of probity and worth, speak frankly to me. Art thou a friend of Hakem's? No.—I will take for granted it is so, though thou art silent; but fear not me, I will not thoughtlessly involve thee in contention.

"Now tell me plainly, art thou a friend, a sincere friend, to Temugin?"

"I am a most sincere friend to thy illustrious spouse," answered the grandee, "and as such I firmly spoke my sentiments at the council, in opposition to Maugu and the rest; but I submit it to thy good sense, fair princess, whether I should not best prove my discretion, and serve the interest of Temugin more effectually, by appearing to be indifferent to what may be going on. I am but one amongst many, and peradventure my zeal might betray me too far

before the Khan, should I give way to my real sentiments, and openly exclaim against his advisers.

"Temugin may shortly return, and by his presence dispel the noxious vapours that are gathering round the throne. I have not the power to do it, however strongly I may be inclined."

"And I have tried, alas! in vain," cried the princess, with great emotion.

"Worthy relative of Kola, I thank thee for thy frankness to me, and I will be frank in return. I fear that Temugin has not a single friend amongst the courtiers that have so sedulously attended here in his absence.

"Why do not grandees of greater worth come forth? They would be above the fawning arts, the base hypocrisy of those, who in his presence, shewed such marked respect to my renowned husband; but were still his secret foes.

"I did suspect, and have at length discovered, this day discovered, the base dissemblers who surround the Khan.

"I have plainly told him so, and have met severe rebuke. Let this go no farther. I would not have mentioned it; but it was some relief to me to reveal it to a friend. Thou art a friend to Temugin, and I am glad I saw thee. Perchance thou hast heard, and can tell me when my husband is expected to return. Hast thou not heard something about it?"

Kola's relative had heard nothing mentioned about Temugin's return, but thought it would be very shortly.

"In his letter to me," resumed the princess, "he intimated that he was only waiting the Khan's commands to return. Has the Khan sent a messenger to the fortress, for I have not been able to learn?"

The grandee was utterly ignorant whether the Khan had sent orders for Temugin's return.

"Then will I dispatch a messenger forthwith, myself," said the princess.

"What is the reason that I, the wife of Temugin, am to be kept in ignorance? Is it owing to Mangu's pernicious influence?

"Why was not a messenger dispatched at once

when it was known there was no occasion for my husband's absence? Is he, through some deep design, to be kept at such a distance from the court? It certainly looks like it. What plot are his secret enemies contriving in his absence?

"I will send a messenger this very day to Temugin, and let him know,—alas! what shall I let him know;—that the Khan, my father, is listening to the insinuations of those who are my husband's secret foes; that"—

"Suffer me to speak a few words, fair princess," interrupted Kola's relative. I see thy feelings are hurt. Try to calm thy mind. I cannot answer the hasty anxious questions put to me; but I think I may venture to hint that intelligence will soon arrive from Temugin; and his speedy appearance here again may set all to rights."

"Most earnestly do I hope it will be so," exclaimed the princess; "but, oh! I have a sad foreboding that some terrible event is near. My dream last night has disturbed, perplexed me. I will not tell it; I cannot.

"A heavy cloud is surely gathering, and will burst ere long; but on whom? There hangs my doubt and fear.

"I have a father and a husband, and for both I deeply feel. My heart is full of pain. I cannot proceed."

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Tears dropt from the eyes of the princess, and she was silent, and absorbed in grief.

The worthy grandee was moved at the sight. He sincerely pitied her distress. In a gentle tone he said, "Retire, fair princess, and console thyself. I will whisper in thy ear what I dare not openly make known. I have myself sent off a messenger privately to Temugin, with a hint for the latter to return to court without delay."

"From my heart, I thank thee!" cried the princess in a burst of warm emotion. "Thy hint will put my Temugin on his guard, at least. It may hasten his return before my father's evil councillors are aware. Had I dispatched a messenger, they might have known it, and have been prepared. Ha!—what glimpse was that I caught?

"Away! away! leave me—leave me! Let me not involve thee in dispute. I can discern the shadow, and suspect the cause. Away at once, and leave me!

"I must speak—I will speak, and warmly too; I cannot rule my woman's tongue! A serpent is lurking near; that detested serpent whose sting I suspect, I know, is meant for Temugin.

"Go, thou, and let me speak."

Kola's relative looked with amazement at the princess. He doubted whether her senses were not disordered, but watching her eye, he found it fixed on the faint shade of some person stationary, and concealed from their sight.

"Go," softly repeated the princess, and waved her hand.

Kola's relative immediately withdrew, in a contrary direction to the shadow.

"Who is there?" called out the princess.

"Is it Mangu?

"Who else can it be but him that descends to be a listener?

"Advance from thy covert, proud courtier

lord. Thy concealment is vain; the light has reflected thy shadow.

"Come forth, I say!

"Dost thou hear?

"Mangu come forth! once more I say; or I will come to thee!

"A woman speaks; the wife of Temugin renowned, the daughter of the Khan. If thou canst trust thy ears to listen from such a distance when I mildly talk, thou must hear me now I loudly call."

Mangu finding that he could not escape detection, came forth, and advanced towards the princess.

"Didst thou call the name of Mangu, fair princess?" enquired the courtier, whilst the blush of shame tinged his cheek, in spite of his habitual effrontery.

"Didst thou call to me?" repeated Mangu, casting down his eyes at the contemptuous glance of the princess.

"Yes! to thee I called.

"I am the daughter of the Khan.

"Lift up thy eyes.

"I am the wife of Temugin.

"Now let Mangu hear what I, the daughter of the Khan, and wife of Temugin, will speak:

"Does it become one of Tartary's wealthiest lords, for such is thy boast, to listen in concealment to my discourse, when by chance I meet a person in my father's palace? Does Mangu's high hereditary rank, of which he is so proud, learn him this becoming practice?

"Does Mangu listen with a good intent?

"Mangu does not answer me. Why then I will ring his praises in his ear.

"Why does Mangu stare?

"O thou, sprung from noblest Tartar blood; thou generous, disinterested friend to merit and to worth, art not thou an honour to the land that gave thee birth? How dost thou scorn the secret, treacherous arts, that might ensnare the man of matchless estimate.

"Thou friend of Temugin renowned, how ought I, his wife, to thank thee in his absence.

"How often to the Khan does Mangu speak in praise of Temugin. Nay, stop; the name of Temugin must be pleasing to his friend.

"Stop, Mangu, stop; the name of Temugin surely cannot make thee wish to go. Oh! no; no; it was purely my mistake. It was only Mangu's diffidence at hearing his own praises coupled with the name of Temugin renowned.

"Temugin, Temugin, renowned Temugin! O, how sweetly does the name of Temugin renowned, glide through the noble Mangu's ears.

"Stop, courtier, stop!

"Remember I am the princess of Oriental Tartary.

"Stop! for thou shalt hear me out; and then go tell the Khan. He is my father; but I know he is the Khan; and my sovereign as well as thine."

"And would be much displeased if he knew his daughter jeered his courtiers so," interrupted Mangu.

"I must risk his displeasure then, though I wish it not," retorted the princess. "In the first place, if thou art so inclined, go, and make it known that I caught thee listening to my discourse. In the next, that if I was the Khan, I would spurn thee from my court; thou en-

vious, treacherous, selfish, proud, hereditary, wealthy lord.

"It is the wife of Temugin that speaks thus openly. Temugin, that name renowned, that thou hast in secret tried all thy subtle arts to sully.

"Had not Temugin's skill and valour, overthrown our numerous invading foes, what would have become of thee, with all thy wealth and rank, and wide domains?

"Base, intriguing Mangu, must have meanly fled, and obscurely hid his proud hereditary head.

"Now away, and let the name of Temugin still ring upon thy ears, and shake thy guilty mind with constant fear.

"Away! For I can trust my tongue no longer; thou mean listener, thou slanderer, thou secret mortal foe to all that's great and good.

"Thou darest not be an open foe to Temugin, thou base dissembler; thou—I do not know what is bad enough to call thee—so away from my sight, and never let me see thee more!

"He is gone; proud, treacherous Mangu is gone; filled with rage and shame by my angry scornful tongue. O may my words prove like the pointed arrow to his guilty bosom, and still wound and rankle there.

"My mind is somewhat cooler now, and I will try to calm myself.

"When have I been so overwhelmed with rage before? I never was; and hope I shall never feel such angry warmth again; but strong cause I have received. This day severe rebuke I have met for interfering between the courtiers and the Khan. I have ventured to speak my mind before him, and remonstrate with my father for attending to secret insinuations against my absent husband.

"Should I be silent in the cause of Temugin?

"Should I allow malignant tongues to assail his credit, and his integrity defame?

"My father! Yes, he is my father; and ought to hear me speak, though he is the Khan. He was my father, I should say; but now he tells me I must only look upon him as the Khan.

"Oh! I am grieved from my inmost soul.

"How art thou fallen, my father, from thy former dignity, from justice, from gratitude, in hearkening to such designing wretches as Mangu. How strangely infatuated! How blind to thy own interest. I overheard him, the vile courtier, so much in thy confidence; I overheard enough to convince me of his base designs, and thy weakness.

"Yes, for once, I, the daughter of Oriental Tartary's lord, stooped to listen; but it was the name of Temugin pronounced by worthless Mangu, that caught my ear, and induced me to listen. Something I thought that I overheard soon after, which made me shudder; but it surely must have been my imagination only, worked upon by fear and fancy.

"It could not be reality. Ung Khan could never degrade himself so far; besides it was only here and there a word I overheard; and intervening words which escaped my hearing, might have made the meaning different to what I fancied; but of this I am sure, that Mangu was counselling evil. That is beyond all doubt. All

those that were friends to Temugin were to be displaced without delay. That I distintly overheard; and that Cafor was to be seized, and confined.

"Cafor—who is Cafor? Some gallant officer I doubt not, whom Temugin has patronised—and then some indistinct expressions faintly reached my ears, which I will not reflect upon.

"They dare not attempt such things, for if they became generally known, the Khan would surely tremble on his throne. Myself, yes, I myself, would incite the troops to justice, by shouting at their head the much loved, honored name of Temugin, aloud—'To arms, to arms, and burst the prison doors where your renowned leader is confined.'

* * * * *

"My father's life I would guard with care, but punishment should surely overtake those vile courtiers who urged him to injustice. They should fall, unpitied fall, with all their pride, their wealth, their boasted rank, and long descent from noblest Tartar blood.—

"What voices are those I hear?

"The Khan himself, and Mangu, are approaching.

"Why did I remain here so long? I will quick retire to my inner apartments, and conceal myself."

Mangu had been so galled by the bitter sarcasms and invectives of the princess, that he immediately hastened to the Khan, and complained to him of the treatment he had received, alleging that he had given no provocation for it at the time, but was merely passing at a distance, when the princess called to him in a loud and vehement tone; then rated him in a manner which he was unwilling to offend the ears of the Khan by repeating, who he was certain would not allow those whom he honored with his confidence to be insulted in his very palace, in terms too degrading to be used to the lowest menial; nor was even thyself spared from reproach," added Mangu.

The Khan not being in a very composed state of mind at the moment, was greatly irri-

tated, and came in person, with Mangu, to reprove his daughter for her behaviour, and insist upon her treating his courtiers with more propriety for the future; or not leave her apartments without his permission. He determined also to make her apologize for the past. Luckily, however, the princess was flown. She had concealed herself in time. The Khan, nevertheless, left directions for his daughter to confine herself to her own apartments for the remainder of that, and the following day, under the risk of his severest displeasure if she disobeyed his commands.

The princess received the directions of the Khan in silence, but not without feelings of great emotion. Is it come to this already; thought she. I am to be confined for the present, to make atonement for what I have said to Mangu. Is such a wretch as him to prevail over the mind of Tartary's sovereign lord?

Is the influence of this vile courtier to be paramount in Ung Khan's palace? Be it so—for a time it may last, and only for a time; of

short duration, I trust. For the present I must submit.

The princess, afterwards, when no one was near, gave vent to her feelings in these words.

"The angry lowering clouds I can plainly foresee. They are congregating; and darker and darker will they grow, until all at once the storm will burst, and with tremendous fury pour. With dread anxiety I trembling wait the approaching storm.

"Thy wide extended plains, O Tartary, may be deluged with the blood of native hostile hosts! Direful is the thought to me.

"In the contest, thy throne, Ung Khan, will surely shake; perhaps may tremble to its very base; for injustice guides thy councils, and justice will oppose them, and at last prevail.

"Some demon now presides!

"The Evil Genius of Mangu is at large, and may attempt to ride upon the storm! But where will be thy Good Genius, O Temugin, by whose mighty aid thou hast triumphed over

many powerful foes. In the dangerous hour that is to come, may thy Good Genius arise, and rule the storm, and hurl the thunderbolt upon the guilty head!"—

* * * * *

"Oh, Khan of Tartary, late my father, how changed art thou; no more a father now to me. Hast thou forgot how much thou owest to the skill, the valour, and the long fidelity of Temugin? Hast thou forgot how much his conquests have added to the lustre and glory of thy throne? One half at least of thy extended realm has been gained for thee by Temugin: Thy enemies on every side have been subdued by him, and now in splendour and peace thou mightest long have reigned; but, alas! all thy splendour and thy glory may fade away, through thy following wicked councils.

"Dost thou reflect how the great victorious leader is esteemed by all the troops.

"They have witnessed, the hardy veterans have witnessed his loyalty and zeal; his inte-

grity and worth. Will they suffer him to be disgraced without the smallest cause?

"Will they restrain their discontent?

"Will they allow him to remain confined without revolting in his favour?

"Will treacherous Mangu dare to persist in advising so far, or the Khan be so infatuated as to act upon it? Still, O still, I think that something like it struck upon my listening ear. Soon the troops should know it, deep intriguing Mangu, however secret it was planned.

"In a short time, if Temugin was close confined, avenging Tartar bows would bend, and winged arrows swiftly fly.

"Where wouldst thou be then, proud Mangu, with thy friends of rank and wealth?

"Thou chief fomentor of the impending evils; if intestine war should rage, may justice guide the arrow to thy side, and cause thee to fall the first.

"Oh! could but Temugin's timely arrival avert the gathering storm, stop the dark

conspiracy, and bring to shame the guilty authors.

"Temugin is firm and penetrating, wise and brave.

"May thy Good Genius be always near to guard thee, my beloved husband."

Now night was come, but, restless and uneasy, the guilty Mangu tried in vain to sleep. Often his eyes he closed, but his thoughts were waking, and allowed no rest. The solemn midnight hour again to him approached, whilst restless on his couch he laid.

No refreshing slumbers came to Mangu. "The shades of darkness soon will pass away," he muttered to himself, and cast a half-reluctant glance around the room. The lamp a feebler light began to shed, and dim the apartment seemed.

Again Mangu closed his eyes.

Suddenly, a noise like stormy winds arose.

The astonished Mangu thought he heard the tempest roar,—the sound of cataracts dashing

down the steepy rocks,—the rolling of the swelling surge against the shore! Then the impetuous whirlwind seemed to rage, and cause the lofty trees to crack, and whole forests by the roots to be uptorn!

"Is this a dream?" in mental anguish ejaculated Mangu. "What a dreadful tumult; as if chaos itself was in wild uproar!

"What means that shock, as if these firm and solid walls would quickly fall!

"Is it the earthquake's dreadful force?"

The door wide open flew, as Mangu looked with wonder and affright!

A flash of lightning cast a glare around the room, and Mangu started from his couch!

In deafening peals the thunder seemed to roll! Again the lightning flashed, and in louder peals the thunder burst.

What hideous form is that!

Mangu, behold!—Behold!!—

The Gigantic Figure was in the room! His Evil Genius stood before him, and on him gazed!

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On Mangu for a few moments gazed the hideous form.

Thrice waved its hand, the hand of the hideous Gigantic Figure, and the thunder ceased to roar.

Now not the slightest noise was heard, and thus spoke the Evil Genius:

"Mangu hearken to my words:—

"I am come to warn thee that a messenger has been dispatched in haste and privacy to Temugin, at the distant fortress, to intimate that his return was necessary to counteract the courtier's designs against himself. Some suspicion he had entertained before, and this intimation by the messenger will confirm it.

"Mangu, it behoves thee now to be most strictly on thy guard. Summon, therefore, all those wily arts in which thou dost excel. Employ all thy vigilance; exert all thy influence; for the important hour is fast arriving. By my powerful aid thou hast gained an ascendancy over the mind of the Khan. Be it thy care he does not waver when Temugin returns. Fear not thou, but act with boldness and decision. Thou hast gone too far, thyself, to hesitate.

Be, therefore, prompt and vigorous in thy measures. Thou hast the power of the Khan with thee, thy courtier friends, and the assistance of thy Genius, which is strong to support thee in all thy undertakings; yet thy strong Genius, O Mangu, is compelled to own that the Genius of Temugin is not idle; is not weak; but active and mighty.

"Mangu, thou heardst the raging tumult before I approached this night. To thy mortal ears, in complicated, deafening sounds, the noisy conflict came. The kindred Genii of thy courtier friends I summoned to force my passage hither; for the watchful Genius of the princess, and a grandee, who was this day in private conference with her, hovered about the palace, and with united strength opposed me.

"Know, likewise, that Cafor has paid a visit of respect to Temugin, which caused the latter some surprise, until an explanation followed, and both have been since employed in endeavouring to trace the source of the secret information that I prompted thee to send the Khan,

about disorders in the frontier fortress, and disloyalty in Cafor.

" Before to-morrow's sun goes down, let thy agents be dispatched to watch the motions of the absent leader; for soon as he receives certain intelligence that his influence is undermining by the courtiers, he will take some precautionary measures, and hasten hither. Be not unprepared for his arrival, for then a bold decisive blow must be struck against him, or thou mayest be undone thyself. Avoid all hesitation; all compunctious feelings; all idle fear.

" Remember, Mangu, thou art in the confidence of the Khan; that thou art thyself one of Tartary's wealthiest lords, and of high descent. The chief men, and courtiers, with slight exceptions, are on thy side. Against thee will be Temugin, once the adventurer, though now so great a name.

" Mangu, or Temugin, must fall.

" Thou art on the vantage ground, O Mangu, and must there endeavour to maintain thyself.

" Act boldly, and scruple not. Thou shalt

have my utmost aid. The death of Temugin will make thee secure from future harm. Let that be treasured in thy mind. The Khan will yield to thy persuasions. More there may be in the book of Fate, but I could not see the whole, for it was on a sudden closed against me by superior power.

I have told thee what I can, and came to inspire thee with firmness. Hitherto thou hast succeeded in thy designs; and doubt not to accomplish those which yet remain. Pursue the end thou hast in view, with the same consummate art as thou didst begin. Bear in mind that the crisis is at hand, and be not deterred by the taunting scornful words that the princess poured upon thee.

"I have warned thee to be prepared for Temugin's return. Remember, if the great leader should then escape thy snare,

Thyself may be undone,
And low may fall the throne.
Therefore, beware!
Draw close thy snare.

The midnight hour is gone,
The morn is hastening on;
I must away;
I cannot stay
The coming day.
Again, before I go,
I say, "beware thy foe!"
With utmost care,
Make fast thy snare.
Now rest thy weary head;
Remember what I've said,—
"Beware!!"

The Evil Genius pronounced the last word in so loud a tone that the whole palace, in Mangu's imagination, seemed to echo the word "Beware!"

"Immediately afterwards the Genius disappeared, and the apartment was filled with a thick stupifying vapour.

Mangu could see and hear no more; but felt as if inebriated by a potent draught, and staggering to his couch he dropt upon it.

As soon as Mangu had recovered from his

stupor, which was late the following day, he secretly dispatched two of his agents to watch the motions of Temugin, and bring him timely information of the latter's return towards the court.

In the course of the day intelligence was received by Mangu, that Cafor had paid a visit to Temugin, at the distant fortress, and had been treated in the most condescending and friendly manner by the latter.

This information was soon communicated to the Khan, and served to increase the suspicions and jealousy which the courtiers had raised in his mind against Temugin; as it now seemed that there was a secret undestanding between him and an officer who had been already suspected of disloyalty, through the machinations of Mangu. Cafor had been summoned to court in consequence, with the knowledge of Temugin, who was present at the time, but he appeared to be subsequently encouraged in his disobedience to the summons, by the countenance and protection of that commander.

Mangu had thus the means of inflaming the

resentment of the Khan to the highest degree, and alarming his mind so greatly with fears and suspicions of Temugin, that the deluded prince yielded at length to the insidious suggestions of the subtle and designing courtier; and determined on causing the brave, skilful, and faithful commander of his troops, not only to be seized on the first opportunity, but secretly to be put to death, as the only alternative for his own future security.

The princess, who had lately been so anxious for the return of Temugin to court, now seriously meditated on the danger that he might probably incur on arriving there; and began to be more solicitous for his keeping at a distance, than she was previously eager for his return. She reflected that if the Khan was so infatuated as to be guided by the suggestions of those who were inimical to Temugin, that he would not hesitate to disgrace the latter, and as a natural consequence might be induced to place him under restraint the moment he came within the verge of the palace; when a fair opportunity would offer for so doing.

For his, and their own safety, the Khan, and his evil councillors, would not allow Temugin to be at large after proceeding so far. She herself had been placed under temporary confinement by her father's orders, and it seemed to her mind to be the prelude to Temugin's confinement likewise, and, dreadful to reflect, even worse might follow him, as soon as the opportunity served for effecting it with privacy and certainty. To avert such a direful event employed her anxious and painful thoughts. What was she to do in this exigency, checked as she had been for interfering, and even placed under restraint?

After deep consideration the princess recollected, that at the request of Temugin, she had provided for the two daughters of an officer, who had been dismissed from a situation in the palace, for giving some offence to Mangu. One of these daughters, the princess had preferred to be an attendant upon herself, though in an inferior degree to the lady Kola, who had long been her friend and confidant.

The princess determined to trust to the

officer's daughter to assist in the project she contemplated, which was to have a letter secretly conveyed to Temugin at once, for the purpose of warning him against returning to court, without due precaution to secure his person from any sudden attempt of the evil disposed courtiers, by whom her father unfortunately suffered himself to be advised.

The princess had noticed that her young attendant alluded to, was discreet, and endowed with good sense; and that she was grateful for the patronage she received. The daughter of the Khan, therefore, prepared her by some previous conversation, and then imparted the design she herself had in view.

The grateful attendant most readily undertook to assist in the execution, by putting the letter of the princess into the hands of her father, the discarded officer, who resided a few miles from the court; and who she knew entertained a very high respect and esteem for Temugin.

Accordingly towards the dusk of evening, the attendant, disguised in a humbler dress, stole

from the palace without interruption, taking the letter of the princess with her.

This was the letter of the daughter of the Khan, to Temugin, her illustrious spouse:—

"It is with the deepest anxiety and pain, that I have considered it necessary to inform my beloved husband, that a dark and malignant conspiracy, fomented by some envious and designing courtiers, has succeeded in his absence from court, in prejudicing the mind of the Khan against him. On thy return hither, be careful to have a guard of chosen men in thy train, on whose fidelity and firmness thou canst rely. I fear thy secret enemies are seeking thy ruin. Be circumspect, and may thy good Genius preserve thee from every ill.

"I hope this warning will reach my Temugin in time to put him on his guard.

"I am much afflicted, and can write no more at present; but remember that the Khan was long thy friend; and thy friend might always have remained; had not pernicious counsels infatuated his mind.

"Remember, too, O my Temugin, my renowned husband, that the Khan is the father of thy

"PRINCESS."

It was late when the attendant, much fatigued, reached the dwelling of her father, who was surprised at her unusual appearance, and her visit alone at that late hour; but he was no sooner made acquainted with the circumstances that occasioned her late visit, and the anxiety of the princess to have her letter speedily conveyed to Temugin, than he determined to proceed with it himself without the smallest delay.

Although the officer was stricken in years, he was yet hale and vigorous. He ordered his favourite steed, which was famed for swiftness, to be got ready by his trusty domestic; and, in about an hour's time after his daughter's arrival, he set off with the letter for Temugin, to her great satisfaction; and she had the pleasure of communicating the same to the princess, her benefactress, early on the following morning, who warmly applauded the conduct of her at-

tendant's father, and promised that he should not go unrewarded.

Temugin himself would not forget this instance of zeal in his cause at such a critical time.

The old officer swiftly proceeded on his journey through the hours of darkness, and continued it until the morning light was far advanced, when he was obliged to stop, and refresh his steed; which having done, he renewed his journey until mid-day. He then procured another horse, his own being exhausted, and prosecuted his way with as much celerity nearly as he had done at the commencement. He made no other delay than taking a slight refreshment occasionally at intervals, and changing horses when it became necessary. By these methods he arrived at the fortress on the frontiers in a comparatively short space of time.

The messenger who had been dispatched from court, with directions for Temugin to remain a few days longer at the fortress, had received an intimation previous to his setting off, that there was no necessity for him to hasten with the

despatch entrusted to his charge; in consequence of which hint, he had travelled so leisurely, that he had not long arrived before the old officer made his appearance with the letter from the princess; and a few hours sooner than both was the messenger from Kola's relative. This messenger had been rather delayed by an accident on the road. As it was, Temugin received the despatch from the Khan, the despatch from Kola's relative, and the letter from the princess, all in the course of the same day.

Soon after Temugin had arrived at the fortress, and ascertained that there had been no foundation for the private account transmitted to the Khan, respecting the garrison, he entertained strong suspicion that it was a contrivance of the courtiers to draw him to a distance, that they might be able to take advantage of his absence in some way to his prejudice; and when he received the despatch with a notification that he might remain there a few days longer, it confirmed his suspicions; because there was not the slightest occasion for his continuance at the fortress, and he had been so completely satisfied with Cafor's conduct that he desired the latter to return to his family, and afterwards rejoin him, that they might proceed in company to

to court, where Temugin promised to bear testimony of Cafor's innocence before the Khan.

The despatch from Kola's relative, and the letter from the princess especially, fully convinced Temugin that his own secret enemies were in the confidence of the Khan, from which it required no great penetration to foresee that the great leader himself must be crushed, or he must crush them. Cafor had already been unjustly accused, and the same would doubtless be his own fate.

If the Khan was infatuated by evil councillors, there was no farther dependance to be placed on him by Temugin. To be accused was sufficient; as condemnation would quickly follow.

If Temugin's long and faithful services, and his devotion to the interests of the Khan on all occasions, could not secure the confidence of the latter against the malevolent insinuations of the courtiers, an appeal to him now might be useless.

Temugin could not expect justice, or redress,

from one who had suffered himself to be prejudiced against him.

The high station of the renowned commander made his ruin more certain, without he took speedy measures to secure himself; and what measures could he take but those of open force? In all probability he could not quietly retire into private life, if he was so inclined. If he withdrew from the dominions of the Khan, and ensured his safety by flight, it might be construed into certain guilt. Go wherever he could, his name had been too distinguished for him to escape notice, or even to be allowed to remain inactive. Those who had injured him would not be able to rest in peace whilst he lived. No middle course was left for him to steer. He must either take up arms against the Khan, or become a victim to injustice;—in the former instance it would appear that he was the aggressor, and he had too much spirit to submit to the latter, without making a vigorous effort to prevent it.

As Temugin did nothing of importance with-

out mature deliberation, for which his character was afterwards so much famed that Arabian writers styled him "a mountain of gravity," he did not hastily decide on his plans; but after deep reflection upon his present case, he determined to make his appearance at court, though it might be attended with great hazard and danger to himself; but, by way of precaution, he resolved to secure some trusty veterans in his interest, who should attend him.

This he would have decided upon without the advice contained in the letter of the princess; but he was pleased to find that she was so solicitous for his welfare.

The princess was placed in a most difficult and painful state, between her father and her husband.

Temugin selected a party of men who had often fought under his eye, and would faithfully obey his commands; he then privately sent an express for Cafor, and that gallant officer expeditiously arrived.

On Cafor's arrival, Temugin revealed the

circumstances of his own case, and desired the former's assistance.

Cafor instantly declared that he would firmly adhere to his great patron in every danger.

"To court we will venture then," said Temugin. We will proceed without delay, and in person confront our accusers and defy them to prove their charges.

Cafor was perfectly ready to attend Temugin any where, at the hazard of his own life. He accordingly at the desire of the latter, took charge of the band of men that Temugin had previously selected; and without making their intention known, they set off for the residence of the court early the following day.

The vigilant, but careful chief, and Cafor, with the chosen band of veterans, left the fortress with such privacy, and travelled with such expedition, that they had actually arrived within nearly half a day's journey of the court, before the circumstance was made known there, by one of Mangu's secret agents.

However, the guards about the palace had al-

ready been augmented, and officers selected by the courtiers, had superseded those who were supposed to be attached to Temugin. The greater part of the troops in the neighbouring castle had likewise been removed, and their places filled by others who had not served under the great commander. In addition to these precautions, a strong force was prepared at no great distance, to overawe the friends of Temugin; as for himself, his capture was considered certain after he entered within the walls of the palace; but his return from the distant fortress was sooner than had been expected, and at first rather disconcerted his enemies, when they found him so near.

Temugin, and his party having marched with such rapidity, and got within so short a distance of the court, halted at the close of day to recruit their strength. They took up their abode for the night in an old deserted castle, which was dilapidated by the wasting hand of time; but they found tolerable shelter in a part of the venerable structure, which remained nearly entire.

Wood was at hand, and blazing fires soon dispelled the damp, and gave a cheering warmth.

Here the hardy veterans rested, and refreshed themselves against the following day, regardless of the toil they had lately undergone, and reckless of the future; resolved to face all dangers where their favorite leader urged them on. Around the blazing fires they stretched themselves; some discoursed awhile of their adventurous deeds in former times; the distant lands they had marched along victorious, under the renowned Temugin; and the many battles they had witnessed by him won; until at length all were silent; and soon in sleep profound the hardy veterans were wrapped.

Cafor undertook to superintend the watch; and at a late hour, Temugin himself went to repose in a room apart.

Though he was somewhat fatigued, the mind of Temugin was too full of care to admit of sleep. He reflected on the ingratitude of the Khan, and the perfidy of the courtiers; then on what might be the result of the day to come, when he made his appearance at the court.

There would be distrust, and suspicion on both sides; but the distrust, and suspicion, of the Khan, and his courtiers, were most unjust, and unfounded.

"Now is the time, my Good Genius," ejaculated Temugin, "to arise in all thy strength, and exert all thy power. Imminent is the danger that threatens me. Enable me to surmount the impending evils, and put to shame those who are my enemies without cause. If I am obliged by stern necessity to draw the sword, assist me to overcome my foes. Justice is all I seek; but I have reason to apprehend that I shall seek it in vain. Injustice I must repel, or fall: yet, let me not inglorious fall. Though the Khan, whom long I have served with unabated zeal, and his perfidious courtiers, are combined against me, may my Good Genius firmly bear me up, and with undaunted resolution arm me.

"Come what will, no abject fear shall ever disgrace the mind of Temugin. Danger I have often braved from open foes; now greater danger may await me from the perfidy of those

who ought to be my friends. My Good Genius, desert me not!"

The attention of Temugin was soon caught by a strange, but not discordant sound; and the next moment he thought he heard the wind with soft whistling breezes blow. He looked out and surveyed the sky; dim appeared the stars in the etherial canopy, and hardly perceptible was the pale moonbeam's shade; but tranquil was the air.

Again in fancy Temugin heard the breezes, though it was a perfect calm.

Still soft whistling breezes sounded in his ear!

Soon a light refulgent filled the room, and odours, more fragrant than the gale ere wafted from Arabia, seemed to come. Through Temugin's whole frame the cheering influence spread.

Brighter and brighter glowed the refulgent light, in splendour equal to the mid-day sun.

In a few moments the door, with swift but silent motion unfolded!

What Radiant Form is that?

The eyes of Temugin, undazzled by the light, beheld his Guardian Genius stand before him.

* * * * *

The Radiant Form on the wondering chief benignant looked, and thus in kindly accents spoke:—

"Thy Good Genius, O Temugin, has seldom left thee. In thy greatest dangers I have been always near, and now I openly appear, to cheer thy bold, but prudent mind. I caused that bright, refulgent light, to display myself more clearly to thy sight. As thy eyes behold my presence, so let thy ears attend my words.

"Great events are near at hand; but shrink not if the Khan himself, and his perfidious courtier lords, should meditate thy ruin. Enter thou undaunted through the palace-gates, and seek an audience of thy prince; but go not singly. Let some few chosen men attend thy person, and suffer not thyself to be drawn apart from them.

"Neglect not what I have said, for close upon destruction thou wilt precarious stand, and need the utmost effort of my powerful

hand. If it fails, thou wilt die by Fate's command. Therefore, O Temugin, be not rash, but timely wise; be bold, but prudent in the midst of enemies. Let thy selected band of hardy veterans be ready at the moment to defend thee. Peradventure thou mayest hear the warning voice of thy fair princess, but it is doubtful if thou wilt see her.

"Redress from the Khan, thou wilt seek in vain; therefore, delay not too long the opportunity of retreating from the court; for within the precincts of the palace far superior numbers may quickly press upon thee, and hem thee in. From the palace walls thou must fly before it is too late.

"A wider space contending armies shortly may require.

"As to-morrow's sun goes down, in full retreat be thou, O Temugin, with thy little gallant band of faithful followers. With fresh increasing numbers quickly join them; for, in thy own defence, thy just defence, the insurgent standard thou must rear.

"I think I can foresee the gathering troops advancing to thy aid, and proclaiming loud thy wrongs.

"If thou art successful, low may Tartary's throne be laid, and Ung Khan seek for shelter in another land!

"Should Fortune pour its warmest, brightest rays upon thee, forget not thy former prudence. Let Ung Khan's conduct a warning be to thee. Bear thou in mind that he who sits upon a lofty throne may fall, unpitied fall, when evil counsel sways him, and injustice marks his actions.

"Feebly must he stand, who by his harsh command drives zeal and merit far away.

"Tartary's throne may fall; and should it fall, thou alone, O Temugin, can raise it up again, and make it with redoubled lustre shine. Remember thou, that Justice sometimes hurls the mightiest down, in spite of all their strength and power.

Temugin yet may rise o'er all his foes,
If prudence with his skill and valour goes:
Futurity so far I can disclose.

Now to thy mortal sight I disappear;
But thy Good Genius will still be near,
To strengthen thee with hope, and banish fear.

The refulgent light gradually diminished after the disappearance of the Genius, and Temugin fell into a calm refreshing sleep until morn. Then, with the rising sun he arose himself, and by his looks and firm composure, inspired with greater confidence his selected faithful band.

At the palace of the Khan, the guards were doubled during the night; and secret orders given to the officers not to show the slightest disrespect to Temugin on his approach; but on no account to suffer him to escape, as he had much to answer for before the Khan.

Even the officers of the guards, though the adherents and friends of the courtiers, thought that Temugin could have no great deal to answer for, and that the insinuation was a mere pretext for his being detained when he arrived.

About mid-day, Temugin made his appearance before the palace, attended by Cafor, and a few of their men; the remainder being left concealed in a retired place at a short distance.

Although every external mark of respect was

paid to Temugin, it did not prevent him from quickly discovering the unusual number of guards about the palace, and the faces of officers who had been appointed in his absence.

As soon as he had entered the palace, Temugin desired that the Khan should be informed of his arrival, and that he was in waiting to receive the commands of his prince.

After some little time, during which there was a considerable stir in the palace, a message came from the Khan that he was rather indisposed, and could not see Temugin at present. The latter, hereupon, gave a significant look at Cafor, and proceeded towards the apartments of the princess; but in the way he was met by an officer and a party of men. Temugin suspected their intention, and demanded the cause of this interruption.

"We have orders," replied the officer, "which we must obey. Temugin must consider himself a prisoner; in making this known to him, and carrying it into effect, I am merely executing my duty, from which I cannot swerve."

"Who gave these orders?" enquired Temugin, with an indignant tone.

"The Khan himself," was the answer.

Temugin pretended to disbelieve what the officer said, and desired him to return with his men, or beware the consequence.

"Retire this instant," continued Temugin, in a commanding voice, "nor dare to interrupt my way."

Awed by his menacing air, and Cafor's stern looks, who came close up with his few select men, the officer drew a little out of the way, as if doubtful for a moment how to act; and Temugin was hastening towards the princess, when he heard Cafor and the officer speaking in high wrath to each other. He looked back, and saw Cafor's hand upon his sword.

At this moment the princess, who had been debarred from having any communication about the palace, cried out aloud, from her apartment, "Fly, Temugin, this instant fly. Delay not; but, whilst it is yet in thy power, fly from hence. Leave me, and save thyself. Stay not here

another moment. Ingratitude and treachery in the palace dwell. If thou hast any regard for thy princess, fly this instant.

"Once more, O Temugin, I warn thee to fly. Let me not warn thee in vain.

"Away! my Temugin, away from hence!"

"Be under no alarm for me, my princess," exclaimed Temugin. "I must try to see the Khan, and hear the reason of all this."

Temugin hastily rejoined Cafor, whose sword was now drawn, as were those of his party.

Matters appeared coming to an extremity, when Temugin made a silent motion to one of his men, who instantly darted away, and shouted so loud that the palace rung.

An arrow quickly flew upward in the air, shot from the bow of a person outside, in the habit of a humble peasant, who seemed by mere accident to have been loitering near. Neither bow or arrow was seen about him the moment before.

Straight at the signal of the arrow's flight, the remainder of Temugin's gallant band of veterans, rushed with the utmost rapidity from

their place of concealment towards the palace, and in a compact form broke through the guard outside, and joined their leader within.

"A truce now to altercation," cried Temugin, calmly. "Officer, deign to tell the Khan that I crave an audience; that I have some complaints to lay before him, and that I am anxious to acquaint him in person, that I have been treated with indignity in his palace; I, who have ever served him with the most devoted zeal and fidelity."

The officer hesitated to comply with Temugin's request.

"Darest thou disobey the great leader of the troops, under whose command thou art, as well as myself?" sternly demanded Cafor.

"I act under the directions of the Khan, thy prince, and mine," replied the officer, "and him I must obey. His orders only I can now receive, and his orders were for me to seize your leader."

"Why dost thou not execute thy orders then?" sharply retorted Cafor. "Come on at once, and let us see what thou canst do. Here is my sword; let it meet with thine."

"Stop, gallant Cafor," cried Temugin; "restrain thy sword. This is the palace of the Khan, and should be sacred from tumults and broils. We are come to remove, if possible, the misapprehensions that evil councillors have instilled into the mind of our sovereign. Confiding in our innocence we are here, ready to meet our accusers. Let them come forward with their charges before our faces, and not calumniate us in secret. Are they afraid that the voice of truth should expose their evil designs? Do their consciences tell them that they cannot substantiate a single charge against us? All we want is a fair hearing, and a just and impartial decision.

"Officer, thou hast heard what I have said, and presume no more to talk to us in the strain thou hast done. It ill becomes thee, and I will not submit to it. Canst thou suppose that I would tamely yield myself a prisoner to thee? Who art thou? Where is thy authority for acting as thou hast done? Can I rely upon thy word alone, in a matter of such importance? Wouldst thou act contrary to every principle of

justice? I charge thee to go at once to the Khan, and say that Temugin, who has often led the Tartar troops to victory, now craves an audience of his prince.

"Cafor put up thy sword. We came not here with menacing intent.

"Officer cast no more threatening looks on him, whose prowess is far superior to thy own. Thou mayest be brave; we doubt it not, but wouldst thou contend with one who would prove an overmatch for thrice thy utmost might. In bloody fields his hardy valour has been often shewn when the use of arms was scarcely known to thee. He has been falsely accused; and omit not to tell the Khan, that he, the gallant Cafor, is here to justify himself; but that no summons from the court was delivered to him. I will vouch for Cafor's loyalty.

"Officer make no more delay, but go this instant, and inform the Khan I sent thee, or beware the consequence of thy refusal. Remember, that I still am Temugin."

The officer sullenly withdrew, and in a few minutes the Khan made his appearance, attended

by Mangu, Hakem, and several of the courtiers, with a strong body of guards.

"Who is it that dares thus openly to brave our officers in the palace, and dispute the orders I have issued?" exclaimed the Khan, in an imperious tone.

"Does Temugin thus take upon himself, and set my authority at defiance, and even insult my presence with his contumacious behaviour? Let my commands be obeyed without the slightest hesitation; and, Temugin, yield thyself, to answer hereafter the charges that will be brought against thee."

"What charges are those, mighty Khan?" enquired Temugin with firmness and composure, "I wish to hear them, and confront my accusers before thy face. Let them appear; I am ready to defend myself against any charge that can be brought against me.

"Where are my secret accusers, mighty Khan? I can answer them at once, and openly expose their base, calumnious arts."

"Does Temugin think," replied the Khan with sternness, "that I will degrade my dignity

in hearkening to him at the very time he has insulted my authority, and threatened the officer in my palace, who was charged with carrying my orders into execution.

"Let those orders be immediately performed," continued the Khan, turning to the courtiers," and glancing at his guards. Let me be no more disturbed."

The Khan withdrew, and the courtiers remained to see his orders duly executed.

"Art thou at length satisfied by what authority I act?" cried out the officer to Temugin. "Thou hast heard the orders of the Khan from his own mouth; therefore yield thyself at once, and not place me under the imperative necessity of employing force."

Temugin smiled in contempt.

Mangu hereupon loudly desired the officer of the guards to do his duty, to admit of no more delay, but use the ample means within his power, and compel Temugin and the audacious crew to yield.

"Take thy choice!" exclaimed the officer to Temugin, "thou and thy party yield at once,

or die! If thou carest not for thy own life, wilt thou madly sacrifice the blood of thy followers in a vain unequal contest against more than thrice their number. Guards without the palace will prevent all chance of escape from us within. A force more than ten times equal to thy little band of veterans is close at hand; and thousands more of loyal troops are not far distant, to act upon their sovereign's command."

Cafor firmly grasped his sword, and the well tried veterans were prepared to act. Not one of this little faithful band betrayed the smallest fear, but by their leader dauntless stood; and by their looks they plainly shewed their dearest blood should flow in his defence.

"Seize them at once," vociferated Mangu. "Surround the whole, and disarm them. Suffer not a single rebel to escape, and let resistance on their part be met with instant death."

Temugin drew his sword.

"A few words more I have to say," answered Temugin, firmly on his guard, "and then, officer, use thy own discretion; but stand not too near my sword whilst I speak. Bear in

thy mind, as well as in thy sight, that it is the sword of Temugin. Stand off a few short moments, for brief will be my speech.

"Mangu, to thee I now address myself, and mark my words; for perchance to thee I may not deign to speak again. Listen to what I say, thou proud, envious courtier.

"Mangu, thou hast been my secret slanderer. I brand thee with the epithet of a perfidious villain; and a victim to justice thou art surely doomed! Thou shalt not long escape my vengeance. Treasure that up in thy mind, and perhaps thou wilt not calmly rest thy head, though screened behind the throne.

"Hakem, take thou the same epithet of perfidious villain, and divide it amongst those vile courtiers; thine, and Mangu's friends!

"Too late the Khan may feel, and mourn your poisonous counsels.

"Gallant Cafor, and my dauntless, faithful followers, who by your leader's side have often bled, we now will go; ere long we may return.

"Officer, with thy guards; Mangu, with thy courtier friends; to all who are my foes, I

loudly call, 'exert yourselves! if you mean to intercept my way,'—Cafor, bring up our rear; we will burst resistless through this treacherous snare! Lo, through every obstacle I fearless go. Come those, who dare, upon my front, and amongst the living they'll not long be found!"

Temugin, and his party, suddenly rushed along.

For a moment in mute astonishment the guards of the Khan, and all the courtiers stood; when recollecting themselves, they closely pursued the retreating party; Mangu bellowing aloud, in a paroxysm of rage and disappointment, not to suffer Temugin to escape, at the hazard of their lives. To excite them, Mangu pressed on amongst the foremost in pursuit, and close upon the gallant Cafor came.

Over his shoulder, Cafor, in retreat, cast a side-long glance, then quickly turned, and made a blow.

Was that hasty blow in vain?

Seldom in vain did fall a blow from Cafor's vigorous arm.

Back started Mangu, as if a flash of lightning

had struck his eyes. He shrunk upon an officer whose sword slightly pierced the cowering courtier's back. Not so easily the officer himself escaped.

The blow from Cafor's sword, missing Mangu, fell upon the officer, and prostrate laid him. Another quickly shared the same fate, and Cafor then continued in retreat. No time was to be lost.

The guards outside the palace now appeared; but as if awed at the sight of the dauntless and renowned Temugin, they opened their ranks, unknowing what they did, as his threatening sword he waved; until aroused by their officer's commands, they were conscious of their error in suffering the retreating party to escape. The guards soon closed on both its flanks, but were quickly driven back on either side, and Temugin, with his gallant little band, forced his passage through, and cleared the precincts of the palace.

Observing his pursuers distanced, Temugin cried aloud, "My faithful followers, it is not fear, to which we all are strangers, but prudence

that urges our retreat until the shades of night arrest the pursuit of our foes. We fly, who never fled before; but we fly to conquer; nor can our foes, though far more numerous, impede our course. Our present flight is but the prelude to future victory.

"We retreat to gather strength, and then return.

"Soon our enemies shall know what my undaunted followers can do, with justice on their side. Already they have seen your valour.

"Through the palace guards within, and those without, we have forced our way; through numbers nearly ten times equal to our own. We have not lost a man; and but I would not risk a single drop of my brave veterans blood, I would make a stand even now, and repel our pursuers to the palace walls. We must, however, not forget that fresh troops may be near, and that the neighbouring castle is well filled with men, which may issue out against us.

"Such numbers, when combined, prudence bids us for the present shun.

"Soon fresh supplies of veterans will join our side, soon as they know the wrongs their leader has received; soon as they know that we contend for justice only. Envy and malice, perfidy and slander, have compelled me to resort to arms in my own defence—to arms that will shortly bring us victory."

"Thy name alone, renowned Temugin, will ensure success," rejoined Cafor. "Thy honoured name will quickly draw those hardy veterans to our side who have so oft beheld thy brilliant deeds. They will arise, and assert their leader's wrongs, and in triumphant strains will hail him victor o'er his foes.

"The shades of night are drawing on, and slow and reluctant our pursuers seem to come. It is caution, or rather fear, that makes them move so tardy; they fear that we should turn upon their foremost men, and dare not trust themselves much farther from the palace walls."

As Temugin and his party continued their retreat in good and perfect order, they beheld

their pursuers slacken, and afterwards halt the whole of their men.

The gallant veterans stopped a moment their retreat, and gave a loud shout in derision of their baffled foes.

THE princess was in the most intense anxiety during the altercation that passed between the contending parties. The whole palace seemed to her to be in the utmost confusion. Though her apartment was remote from whence the sounds proceeded, yet loud indignant words sometimes indistinctly reached her. At intervals she thought that she heard the voice of her renowned husband; strong and powerful, when exerted; and then the sonorous tones of other tongues. Once she fancied that she heard her father utter some expressions in a stern, imperious strain. Again she imagined that the rattling of swords rung through the palace, as if drawn in haste and anger from their sheaths. The loud shout from a pair of lungs,

that might almost vie with Stentor's, made her start—it seemed to echo all around.

What could be the meaning of that loud shout? The princess could contain herself no longer. She tried the door of her apartment—it was secured outside. Swift to a suite of rooms above, to which she had access, the princess ran. She arrived just in time to perceive the arrow descending from its airy flight;—the arrow which was shot from the humble peasant's bow.

"That arrow must have been intended for some signal," cried the anxious princess. "Was it for fresh guards of soldiers to surround the palace, and prevent all hope, all chance of safe egress to injured Temugin.

"Ah! Temugin, so famed for cool deliberation, for prudence, and experience, as well as valour, why didst thou not fly at first, when I exerted my warning voice? Thou mightest have been far distant, and thy pursuers scorned. Darkness would have shortly concealed thee from their sight. Why rashly stay amidst thy

rancorous foes? Why, alas! why suffer thyself to be enclosed within their toils? All thou canst say, all thou canst urge, will be of no avail where such treacherous counsels sway. Now thy life alone will satisfy the envious and malignant courtiers, except the Khan should spare it, in pity to his daughter, and stop their dark intent of proceeding to that extreme of baseness; but the Khan himself is infatuated by the demon of suspicion and jealousy, which the courtiers have conjured up to his mind; and as their secret, guilty designs, have become revealed to thee, O Temugin, they cannot rest whilst thou art living. Thou must fall to glut their hatred, and allay their fears. They have offended thee beyond all hope of pardon; and thou wilt be doomed their victim to prevent the chance of retribution overtaking them from thy just resentment.

* * * * *

"If my renowned husband falls, unjustly falls, and I survive, let some of these vile courtiers at least beware. Though not perfidious, like themselves, my head perhaps may plan as well

as theirs a subtle snare. The retaliation on my part would be just."

* * * * *

"Ah! what are those I behold so swiftly pouring on? Through the guards outside the palace they have broke, and rushed within the walls.

"They must be friends to Temugin—surely they must, or why break through the guards with such fierce and threatening looks?

"Hopes; some hopes are left; my husband may yet be safe, may yet escape the snare of treachery, by the aid of those brave men, who have so timely rushed within the palace. The arrow's flight might have been a preconcerted signal made for them; but still, O Temugin, it behoves thee to beware. Oh! could I call from hence with lungs so strong that my loud voice would reach his ears, I would repeat the words, 'Fly, Temugin; fly, whilst there is a chance for thy escape.'

"Until I was hoarse, and could no longer speak, I would reiterate the warning words, 'Fly, O fly from this detested place, where

wicked councils rule, and worth like thine may meet no friends.

"I can hear no noise below, from this lofty station. I will descend again, and try to catch the distant sounds. Perchance, my Temugin's voice I may hear again, though faintly borne along the hollow passages, which to loud indignant tones so lately seemed to ring."

The princess descended to her apartments below, and with trembling heart close to the door she listened. She shortly heard the clash of swords, or so she fancied, and soon after the hasty trampling of many feet. Towards the outside of the palace they seemed to move. Straight to the topmost room she winged her flight again, and through an aperture gained a view beyond the palace walls.

With sudden ecstacy, she cried, "'Tis him! 'tis him!" and clasped her hands. "'Tis him! 'tis him! It is my renowned husband, my hero, my Temugin? He has escaped—he has escaped—he has got outside the palace walls, and a faithful band of brave adherents with him.

"Turn not, turn not, O Temugin, but urge thy flight with increasing speed.

"Why does he move so slow? Now he turns. Why does he turn? Why not move swiftly on?

"He has turned, my brave Temugin has turned to repel his foes. Ah! how they recede; his brandished sword, and his undaunted looks, they cannot stand.

"He is clear—he is clear—my Temugin is clear—he has drove back all the thick embattled guards.

"Now thou art clear, swiftly speed thy flight, O Temugin, till thou art far away. Swiftly move along.

"Oh! swifter move—move more swiftly yet. Fresh numbers soon may join in pursuit. How tardy to my fancy does he seem to go; yet a good distance from the palace walls he has gained, I must confess; but his pursuing foes are yet too near, and he appears as if he scorned to fly. Why should he keep so much amongst his rearmost men? Why not, as their leader,

march the foremost in the van? Is it because there is more danger in the rear, that requires his valour, skill, and care.

"Should foes upon his van appear, then Temugin would be the foremost there.

"Who is that, the hindmost of the faithful band? The eyes of Temugin seem often fixed upon him, as if he admired his daring conduct. It may be the person whose name I overheard pronounced in the secret conference between Mangu and the Khan. I judged he was one of high worth, some gallant officer whom the great leader had promoted, and made a firm and grateful adherent.

"This is, doubtless, that very officer who was to have been seized and placed in close confinement. Cafor was his name. If that is him, a most daring soldier he appears to be. Stern defiance sits upon his martial brow. He keeps in retreat, the hindmost of all the gallant band, as if he fain would try his sword upon the foremost of the pursuers' heads. No wonder his great leader promoted him.

"The brave and skilful soldier, of whatever

descent he was, whether of humble lineage, or of high connections, was sure to meet encouragement from Temugin.

"Both parties now have got far distant, and the pursuers appear to me as if they slackened in their speed, and thought their efforts were useless.

"I can distinctly perceive them yet, but Temugin and his brave adherents are almost out of sight. The latter are more inured to danger and fatigue, and well have proved it on this eventful day.

"The approach of night begins to shade the sky, and soon the veil of darkness will conceal the movements of both parties.

"Will they continue in retreat, and in pursuit, throughout the hours of night?

"Far, far distant from their foes may Temugin and his brave associates be, before the morning light appears.

"Ah! the hindmost party stops! Those that did pursue are at a stand! They can no farther go, or dare not trust themselves amidst the shades of night.

"What noise is that?

"It is a loud united shout comes wafted on the breeze! I plainly heard the sound.

"I know it was a shout, and loud indeed it must have been to have reached this distance; but it was borne on the wings of the wind, and grateful to my ears it sounded, for from the band of Temugin I think it came, as if in scorn of the vain pursuit the foes had made. The former now are out of sight, and I will retire below.

"Cold is the evening air in this topmost room, and my mind is somewhat tranquillized by what I have witnessed from this place.

"The reflection that my injured husband will be far beyond his treacherous foes, before the morning light, will be a cordial to my heart.

"My attendants may have wondered where I went, for they have doubtless returned to my apartments. I sent them all away to gain some information of what was transacting in the palace.

"They are not debarred from going to and fro, though their princess is not allowed; but I

am the wife of Temugin, and must submit until my renowned husband gains redress."

On descending to her apartments, the princess found two of her attendants, who concluded that she must have discovered some means of withdrawing from the palace, and were deliberating how they should act; whether to make the circumstance known, or conceal it for the present, that she might have more time to secure herself; but her appearance now relieved them, and they communicated to her all the information they had gained, and described the scenes they had cautiously witnessed, themselves, during the confusion in the palace.

They told the princess how firm and undaunted Temugin had acted; how boldly he had reproached Mangu, Hakem, and the courtiers for their perfidy; and, lastly, of his sudden and successful retreat from the palace, in spite of every obstacle that opposed his way.

The princess eagerly enquired if any fatal conflict had taken place in the palace, as she thought she heard the rattling of swords from the scabbards.

The attendants answered, that swords had indeed been drawn, and blood was shed in the palace, but that Temugin retreated with all his party in safety.

"What blood, then, has been shed?" resumed the enquiring princess.

Her attendants replied that the courtier lord, Mangu, was killed outright, and two officers likewise, in attempting to seize Temugin.

"What! is perfidious Mangu slain?" exclaimed the princess, in great emotion. "If so, justice itself has struck the blow. That courtier deserved the fate he has met, but I am sorry that other blood has been shed. Did you see the courtier fall?"

The attendants had not seen the courtier fall, but such, they said, had been the report, which was not contradicted; and, therefore, they believed it to be correct; and certain it was, that it created great confusion in the palace. The Khan had issued orders for armies to be assembled, and every thing was in commotion.

The princess, on hearing this, hastily enquired after the young lady, daughter of the

old discarded officer, who had become her favourite attendant; particularly since she had taken the letter for Temugin, to her father; and the latter had so expeditiously conveyed it to its destination.

From her the princess expected to receive a more circumstantial account of the late occurrences within the palace. She was informed that this young lady had remained to gather farther intelligence, and desired them to return in the mean time, as their attendance might be required; she herself being anxious to discover who the peasant was that shot the arrow in the air, as a signal it seemed for a party of Temugin's selected men, who had laid in ambush, to rush into the palace from their place of concealment.

"What could make her so curious about the peasant?" resumed the princess. "It was of little consequence to her where his humble abode was situated, or what was his name. How could she expect to discover who he was? Temugin knew him well, without doubt, or he

would not have confided so strongly in his fidelity.

"The humble peasant well discharged the important trust committed to him, and will be sure to meet reward hereafter."

"Great princess, he was seized," replied the attendants, "as he was intently looking towards the place where the party of men was concealed. He had fixed another arrow in his bow, purposely, no doubt, to renew the signal, had the former failed. If his mind had not been so much engaged, he might have escaped."

The princess was much concerned to hear that the worthy peasant had been seized. She feared that he would find no mercy from those into whose hands he had fallen.

"Poor, luckless peasant," cried the princess, "how I grieve at thy mischance. Worthy, faithful adherent of my Temugin, why didst thou not fly swift as the arrow from thy bow, that gave the timely signal?

"Why did he stop? If the first signal had failed, could he not have shot another arrow, as

he was hastening away? Trusty, but incautious peasant; trusty to discharge the act he was selected to perform, but incautious to his own preservation. How I pity him.

"Yes, the daughter of the Khan, and wife of Temugin, grieves for the poor, humble, faithful peasant. May the service he has rendered, may the zealous and scrupulous discharge of the trust reposed in him at such a critical juncture, be some consolation to him in captivity; and may Providence quickly interpose, and avert his impending doom."

The princess wished that the capture of the poor peasant had not been related to her. It greatly troubled her mind.

The inferior attendants withdrew, as the young lady, daughter of the old officer, entered the apartment; and, from her account it appeared that the report of Mangu having been killed in the conflict with Temugin's party, was incorrect. He had only been slightly wounded by an officer's sword, as he shrunk back to escape a blow; but the officer himself, and another, had been severely and dangerously

wounded. No other blood had been spilt, but the palace remained in great confusion.

The princess on gaining this account remarked that the most guilty person had only slightly suffered; but his punishment was yet to come. Those who envied Temugin, and by their treachery had driven him to arms in his own defence, must expect to feel his just resentment now he had escaped their snare.

"What of the poor hapless peasant," enquired the princess? "What will become of him? Has thou learnt his name? His name, however, is no great object to us at the present; it is his fate we have to regret."

"I have a gloomy foreboding on my mind since I caught a glimpse of him," cried the attendant. "Slight was the glance I took at a distance, but his form and stature, so strongly reminded me of my father, that I was exceeding anxious to discover who the peasant really was. All I could gather in the confusion was of a doubtful nature respecting him. He would make no disclosure when seized; but merely said he was not aware there was any crime in

what he had done. He was strongly suspected, however, to be a person beyond a humble peasant, and that he had only assumed the disguise he wore, to saunter near the palace with less notice from the guards without.

"Whoever he was, it struck me he had a soldier's mien, and I wish his face had not been concealed from me as he passed along surrounded by others; for I cannot remove the painful sensation that I feel, from the resemblance that his figure bore to my father."

The princess endeavoured to suppress her own emotion at what she heard. She, herself, began to apprehend that it was no humble peasant, but some person long known to Temugin, who had been entrusted to make the signal at such a critical moment; she, however, desired the young lady not to give way to imaginary fears about her father, who might be at that moment resting in his own dwelling from the fatigues of his long journey to the distant fortress, and her anxiety about him might be removed in a few days; but he of course would be cautious of sending any intelligence to her

during the present state of affairs, lest it should create suspicion.

As for the person taken in the disguise of a peasant, whoever he was, Temugin would not allow him to suffer with impunity; and it was not improbable that the captive might find the means of escape from captivity, as there was so much confusion in the palace; which would be rather increased than diminished by the preparations that would continue to be made for the suppression of Temugin and his adherents.

The sword was drawn; secret treachery had failed, and openly in arms both parties hereafter would have to meet.

The princess then expatiated on her own unhappy situation, and the dreadful consequences that might result from the rupture between Temugin and the Khan. The young lady's apprehensions were thus diverted, respecting her own father, in the sympathy she felt for the princess. The fears of the latter were not imaginary; they were, alas! too well-founded. Misfortunes of the heaviest kind were hanging over her. The unhappy princess had a father and

a husband engaged in mutual strife, and soon armies on either side would be arrayed, and meet in fierce encounter. Her father, or her husband, one or both, might perish in the rage of civil war.

GREAT was the disappointment and vexation of the Khan and his courtiers, when the unexpected intelligence was communicated to them that Temugin, with his little gallant band of daring veterans, having succeeded in forcing a passage through the guards outside the palace, and cleared the precincts, continued to retreat in good order; and that, as darkness shortly afterwards intervened, it caused the pursuing party, already considerably distanced, and much fatigued, to desist from following up the dubious track of the fugitives.

A long night would thus favour and conceal the movements of the rebellious crew, who might avail themselves of the time and opportunity to get far away, secure and unmolested.

Temugin had completely extricated himself from the snare which had been planned for his capture in the palace, and left his enemies in doubt and suspense as to what part of the country he would direct his flight.

He was so well acquainted with the nature, strength, and situation of every place within the dominions, that it might become a difficult matter to trace with due precision the movements of a chief so vigilant and cautious as him.

From the great popularity of Temugin, there was much reason to apprehend that he would be enabled to raise a strong force, if not quickly suppressed.

His great military reputation would inspire his adherents with confidence, and might induce numbers to join his standard, on reflecting that his consummate skill and conduct had often proved successful in the most arduous and dangerous enterprizes.

Moreover when Temugin publicly proclaimed the wrongs that caused him to have recourse to arms, as the only means of saving himself from the injustice and malice of perfidious

accusers, who meditated his destruction, it might have a powerful effect upon those who were previously inclined to be steadfast in their allegiance to the Khan; and make them neuter at least, if they did not actually favour the insurgents.

The epithet of "rebellious crew," which had been given to the hardy veterans who fimly adhered to Temugin at the palace, would not abate their ardour in his cause; and though he had not the treasure at command, or resources to provide for, and maintain a numerous force like the Khan, he might nevertheless frustrate for some time the exertions of his opponents effectually to subdue him, notwithstanding they were supported by the influence and connexions, of the highest rank, and greatest wealth in the state.

Every hope of conciliation was in vain after what had passed, and nothing remained for the Khan, and the enemies of Temugin, but the employment of all their means to overpower as speedily as possible that great commander, and his adherents. Each succeeding day, in all pro-

bability, would give the latter an accession of strength, without they were vigorously pursued.

If Temugin retired towards the frontiers, he might gain some of the garrisons to his interest, before the Khan could have an opportunity of counteracting the same, by sending an army to keep them in awe, and remind them of his sovereign authority. The name of Temugin would have almost as much weight as his own in the distant provinces; and the troops there being chiefly composed of veterans, might feel little hesitation in obeying the orders of a chief to whom they had been so long accustomed.

The Khan, and his evil councillors, experienced not only disappointment and vexation, but much serious apprehension of what might be the consequence, when they reflected on all these circumstances. They had, in fact, made too sure of seizing Temugin in the palace, without publicity and trouble; and had he not returned from the distant fortress some days sooner than they expected, and taken the precaution of bringing with him a band of faithful men to protect himself against any sudden at-

tempt by open force, he might have fallen into the snare that was laid; and have had no opportunity of escaping to raise his adherents.

Although many officers, appointed by Temugin's recommendation, had been removed, particularly in the neighbourhood of the capital, and their places supplied by others attached to the interest of the courtiers, yet in several of the distant garrisons the officers were those chiefly selected by him; and would of course, from motives of gratitude, be rather disposed to lean towards him; if they did refrain from joining him at once, doubtful of the consequence.

The Khan too late perceived, and mourned the fatal error of listening to the suggestions of the envious courtiers. He had now actually driven to rebellion a great and skilful leader, under the visionary apprehensions that the latter might possibly be tempted by ambition to rise against him. He had, by his own conduct, converted a bare possibility into an absolute certainty.

The imaginary evil the Khan had dreaded,

was made a reality, through his own jealousy and ill-grounded suspicion. However, it was necessary for himself to suppress his feelings, and exert his authority to give an impulse to vigorous proceedings, in order to divert the gathering storm from bursting on his throne. It was expedient that a numerous army should be collected without the smallest delay; and that an overwhelming force should be marched against Temugin. A small superiority of numbers would be unable to contend against his adherents, when conducted by the skill and valour of such a great commander; who far exceeded in ability any general that the Khan could find to place at the head of his own troops.

Temugin, stimulated by wrongs, and driven to necessity, would arouse all the energies of his undaunted mind to the approaching contest, which must decide his future fate. To him, there would appear no alternative but death or victory; and he of course would make the most strenuous exertions to secure the latter.

Whilst the Khan, and his other councillors,

were in deep deliberation, Mangu was on his couch, enduring sensations of the most painful nature. He suffered both bodily and mental pain; but the latter was far more severe. His wound was slight, but though the sword had not deeply pierced, it had made a long incision in his flesh, from the back upwards, between his shoulders; and had he not shrunk down his head, in sudden apprehension, to avoid the blow of Cafor, the sword of the officer just behind Mangu, might have occasioned a more dangerous wound. As it was, it irritated him extremely, and the perturbed state of his mind was not calculated to allay the smart. Indeed, he fancied at the moment that the wound was of a most dreadful nature; that he had been nearly cut in two, and that his life must speedily be extinct.

It was a considerable time before Mangu could recover from his fears, or recollect how he had received the wound; so stupified had he been at the sight of Cafor's flashing sword, as it brandished over him; and the terrified courtier thought it was a miracle that he had escaped

death from its stroke; but at the same time he could not help reflecting that his own courage was placed in a doubtful light by what had occurred. He had been the first to rush forward, and make a shew of resolution; but his resolution was like a spark, that was soon extinguished. Although he was the first to press upon the fugitives as they retreated from the palace, yet no sooner did Cafor turn upon him, than Mangu was, alas! the first to shrink back; notwithstanding he was supported by superior numbers.

An ignoble wound the noble courtier had received, if noble he could be called, whose only title to that word was his high descent. The mortifying thought stole across his mind, that his boasted rank and wealth, were of little weight in conflict against a bold adventurer, however meanly he might speak of them; but every other feeling now gave way to his bitter disappointment and vexation at Temugin's escape.

Mangu foresaw the danger and difficulty of suppressing Temugin by open force, if he re-

mained at large; because his popularity in the army would inevitably draw numbers to his side, without he was speedily captured, or slain.

The disappointed courtier had endeavoured to console himself with the hopes that the fugitives would be overtaken in the course of the night; but when it was made known to him that the Khan's troops had halted at the approach of darkness, and that Temugin continued his retreat unpursued, he almost execrated their tardiness; and, in his heart, bitterly reviled them for want of resolution and perseverance, in discontinuing the pursuit.

The mortified and wounded Mangu desired his attendants to withdraw, as he pretended to be in want of rest; but in reality he did not wish them to witness the rage and disorder of his mind, which he could ill conceal.

After enduring much tormenting reflection on the recent events, Mangu began to feel exhausted; and dropt into an uneasy slumber, partly occasioned by a soporific draught, which had been previously administered to him, as a

means of allaying the irritating sensation from his wound; for wounds and scars were things the haughty and luxurious courtier had not been accustomed to; and he was treated accordingly; but what with the soporific draught, and the agitation of his mind, he awoke in a delirious state, after a few hours, troubled sleep; and then, without stopping to put on any clothes, he seized the lamp, and issued from his chamber.

It was about the dead of night that Mangu, in his delirium, stalked along until he came to the interior of the palace, where some guards were stationed as a greater precaution. since the events of the day.

In his sleep Mangu had rubbed a portion of the plaster from the wound on his back, and it now stuck on his forehead, and smeared it a little with blood; which, added to his wild and pallid looks, gave him such an uncouth appearance, that the drowsy guards stared upon him with wonder and dismay; for has he had no covering to his feet, he was neither heard, or seen, until he came suddenly upon them.

After eyeing them a few moments in contemptuous silence, he passed on.

No one attempted to speak to the strange figure, and a solemn stillness prevailed; the guards continuing to gaze upon him with astonishment, and superstitious fear; unable to recover from their first surprize, and doubting whether it was not a form arisen from the dead. They could not recognize in the present uncouth appearance, any one they had seen before; and Mangu, divested of clothing, was widely different to Mangu in his usual splendid courtly garb; even if he had not been disfigured by the patch on his forehead, and the smearing of blood upon his pallid countenance.

In mute suspense the guards remained, when their officer at a little distance rousing from his drowsy torpor, and stretching out his arm, by chance touched the lamp that Mangu was carrying, and immediately cast his half-opened eyes that way, to discover what it was; and he then all at once caught sight of an object that made him involuntarily start!

The officer of the guard gazed at the un-

couth appearance, like his men; wondering what it could be, and how it came there in contact with his outstretched arm.

Mangu only gave a silent look of proud disdain at the officer in return, and stalked on; but the latter, summoning up his courage, exclaimed, "Who, or what art thou? From whence didst thou come, or where are thou going? Answer, if thou canst answer. If thou art anything mortal I must detain thee,—thou hast no business here. Speak!

"Who, or what is it, and how came this strange appearance here?" continued the officer, the next moment, to his men.

They, having somewhat recovered from their apprehension, replied, that they knew not who or what it could be; and were unable to account for the presence of the figure, which came, unheard and suddenly, amongst them.

The uncouth form now stopped, and glared upon them with rage and wild disorder; then, in a loud and scornful tone, cried out, "Where is Temugin, ye irresolute, feeble wretches? Where was your zeal in the service of the

Khan, when you suffered his enemy to escape? What atonement can you make for your remissness? Are you not filled with shame at the pusillanimous conduct you have been guilty of? You deserve not the arms you wear. What confidence can be reposed in such men? Do you not fear the just resentment of the Khan, for failing to execute his positive orders; which were, that Temugin on no account should be suffered to escape?"

The officer recognized the voice of Mangu; and perceiving the state of his mind, he endeavoured to soothe and pacify him. He ordered the courtier's attendants to be roused; and with some difficulty they conveyed him back to his couch, whilst he continued to vociferate that he must go without delay and attend a council on matters of great importance. He kept on raving for some time, but afterwards became composed, and sunk to sleep.

The princess, on her part, had been using her best endeavours to divert the thoughts of the young lady, who attended on her, from dwelling on the similarity which the latter fancied she

had observed between the make and stature of the captive peasant, and her father; and having in some measure succeeded, after a lengthened conversation on other subjects, she dismissed her for the night, and then in private gave way to her own reflections.

Much as the princess had been rejoiced at the escape of Temugin, from the imminent danger to which he was so recently exposed, through his treacherous enemies in the palace; she felt, nevertheless, uneasy at the hapless lot of the peasant, whom she now greatly apprehended would turn out in reality to be the old discarded officer, who had shewn so much zeal and promptitude in conveying her letter to Temugin; and whose trusty conduct in making the signal, merited a better fate than that which he would in all probability receive from his enraged captors.

How dreadful would be the feelings of his daughter when she heard at length that the captive peasant was actually her father in disguise. It was a subject that the princess in vain endeavoured to banish from her mind; for

it still recurred, and the more she reflected upon it, the more she became impressed with the idea that the peasant was the old officer in disguise, the father of the young lady her attendant. The princess could think of no means in her own power, to avert the doom that seemed impending over him. Her intercession with the Khan, in the captive's favour, might only hasten the latter's destruction; and, indeed, from what had recently occurred, she could not expect that she herself, the wife of Temugin, could have any influence in the palace at the present conjuncture.

The princess had been for some time past an object of suspicion on account of her husband; and it was doubtful if the Khan would even hearken to her, as affairs now were, though she was his daughter; yet she could not bear the idea of the worthy old officer suffering for his zealous attachment to her renowned Temugin.

During the remainder of the night, the princess was endeavouring to devise some means of extricating the captive from the peril that was hanging over him; but she could not fix on

any; and, before another night had passed away, his doom might be irrevocably decided by his foes. The morning that was approaching might be his last. Not the captive alone would suffer, but his wretched daughter too.

What consolation could the princess afford the poor maiden for the death of her parent. She would wither, like the young blossom pinched by an untimely frost, which no genial rays could afterwards recover. The early days of her life would be clouded with the bitterest woe; and, instead of cheerful smiles, her eyes would oft be filled with tears of sorrow.

Thus, to herself, the princess said,
Could I afford thy parent aid,
Could my lost influence return,
He should not long in prison mourn;
But quick should be
From durance free.
I now can only pity thee,
Poor victim to fidelity.
The first sad fruits of civil war
Have fallen to thy hapless share.

Thy arrow's speed,
Thou stood'st in need,
When from thy bow the signal flew,
And from their latent covert drew
The chosen, gallant, faithful band,
That by their leader firmly stand.
May he arrive,
And thou survive:
May Temugin in triumph come,
And save thee from a traitor's doom.—
He may come, but too late for thee;
Too late to set the captive free!
Great is my fear
Thou wilt not hear,
When he with loud impatience calls,
" Rush on, and burst the prison walls,
" And set the trusty peasant free;
" That peasant was a friend to me:
" His signal made,
" Brought timely aid:
" Quick pouring to their leader's side,
" The veterans my foes defy'd;
" And I escaped the treach'rous snare,
" And will reward the peasant's care."

It is too late,
He's met his fate;
The captive is no longer there!
His foes were deaf to mercy's pray'r!
Brave Temugin thou art too late,
Thy captive friend has met his fate.
Yet, ere he dies,
Soft pity cries,
O daughter of the Khan arise!
Try all the means thou canst devise,
Money and jewels may be spared,
And the rich offer tempt the guard.
Try thou at least,
And do thy best.
O wife of Temugin, to thee,
What satisfaction would it be,
To make the prison doors unclose,
And save the captive from his foes.

THE reproaches of Mangu, though uttered in the moments of his delirium, had made a strong impression on the minds of the party which had been stationed as a guard in the interior of the palace. These men were conscious that much remissness might with justice be attributed to them, for not making greater exertions to prevent the escape of Temugin and his little band of adherents.

The most positive injunctions had been given to secure the leader at all events; but the guards had been so awed by his undaunted behaviour, that at the most critical moment they remained in a state of suspense; and they were apprehensive that Mangu, as soon as he recovered, would complain of their conduct to

the Khan, and draw down his sèvere displeasure upon them. The consequence was, that several of them deserted before morning light; which defection, at such a juncture, increased the confusion in the palace, and revived hopes in the mind of the princess that she might be able to effect the release of the captive.

The Khan and his courtiers were so much engaged in concerting measures against Temugin, that the captive peasant had undergone no examination since he had been placed in confinement; and it was hardly known, except by those who seized him, what had become of this person; the escape of Temugin, and the disaster of Mangu, who at first was reported to have been killed, having at the moment absorbed almost every other consideration. It was, therefore, with some difficulty that the princess, through the medium of the young lady, her attendant, whom she enjoined to enquire with caution, learned the place of his confinement; which was in a vault under one of the wings of the palace; but as it was not usual to confine any one in the residence of the Khan, except as

a temporary matter, there could be no doubt that the prisoner would be shortly removed, and, perhaps, immediately afterwards put to death. It was, however, so far fortunate, that the Khan and his courtiers had not been reminded of him as yet.

The princess having succeeded in ascertaining where the captive was placed, next considered whom she could entrust with the arduous task of tampering with the guard. She was under restraint herself, and could not venture from her apartments without permission from the Khan, which, in the present excited state of affairs, she could not apply for, without being suspected of some sinister design in favour of Temugin; and even if her request was granted, she might be strictly watched. Although her attendants were at liberty, she was not; yet when they occasionally left her, the door of her apartment was closed outside; and she knew that they were held responsible for any neglect in this particular, and were always obliged to deliver the key to a sentinel,

who was placed at no great distance, to receive and return it, as required.

The princess had access to rooms above, by which she could gain access nearly to the top of the palace, but she could not get from thence to the interior. When, therefore, her attendants left her for the night, she had no chance of egress, whatever she might have in the day; and even then the sentry would perceive her.

In this emergency, the princess determined to trust the daughter of the old discarded officer, in preference to her other attendants; although she was apprehensive that the former would make the painful discovery that the captive was her father; and by her anxiety for his release, if it should prove to be him, occasion the observation of others, and cause his detention to be more publicly known; in which case, the Khan and his courtiers, might the sooner be reminded of the circumstance.

The princess had already evinced to this young lady, her own solicitude for the release of the captive peasant; and she now confided

to her the intention of effecting it if possible. Her treasure or jewels she hinted might be usefully employed for that purpose; and she would cheerfully sacrifice them to procure his enlargement; but the affair required to be managed with great address and caution.

The guard might at length yield to the allurement of treasure and jewels, when presented to his sight, and accompanied by the promise of a still greater reward hereafter, if he allowed the captive to escape.

Her attendant was rejoiced to find the princess so eager for the prisoner's release, on account of the resemblance she herself fancied he bore to her own father, from the slight glance she had caught; but, independant of the latter circumstance, she would have risked any thing for the princess, to whom she was gratefully attached.

After some deliberation, it was decided that an old domestic in the palace, who had been long known to the princess, should be applied to in the first instance, to lend his assistance towards the accomplishment of their design.

The attendant therefore went, and cautiously sounded him; and he, after a little hesitation, agreed to use his best endeavours to serve the princess in the attainment of the object she had in view. Accordingly, some money and jewels were secretly delivered to him, for the purpose of bribing the sentry; and the old domestic having prepared the way by a little previous chat with the soldier, pretended to be pleased with his acquaintance, and promised to bring him a draught of choice liquor before he retired to rest himself, to cheer the former on his nocturnal watch; if he could find an opportunity of conveying it to him unobserved. "No fear of that," quickly rejoined the sentry, unconsciously moistening the corner of his mouth at the thought of the precious cordial; "there can be no fear of your being observed; you are familiar with all parts of the palace, and therefore can easily avoid the guards; only keep out of their way, and tread cautiously."

"I will not fail to come then," intimated the domestic, "and bring the cordial with me;

which will be found choice stuff, fit for the Khan himself."

The sentry's tongue again moistened his lips, as in imagination he anticipated the delicious draught, the precious cordial fit for the Khan himself.

When all appeared quiet in the palace, the old domestic proceeded towards the place where the sentry was on guard over the captive; but his movements created a little sound as he passed along; and though it was but slight, it nevertheless attracted the quick ears of the officer commanding the watch at another part, near which the old domestic passed; and from whose vigilance he had a narrow escape, by concealing himself.

In a short time, the old domestic hearing no stir, stole from his concealment, and proceeded with more caution until he arrived at the station of the sentry, who had been impatiently expecting him.

The domestic produced the cordial. The sentry drank; and to him it was equal to the fabled nectar of the gods. He declared it was

the choicest stuff he had ever tasted in the whole course of his life.

A few drops more of the precious elixir, and the sentry's very heart was warmed; he would do any good turn for the worthy domestic, that laid in his humble power. "Simple soldier as I am," quoth he "I may one day—"

"Yes," interrupted the domestic, "thou mayest one day have it in thy power to serve me. Thou mayest hereafter receive promotion far beyond thy expectations. Even now thou couldst serve me, and thyself too, by merely doing an act of generous compassion.

"Sentry, I am certain thou art a man of an honest and grateful mind; I can read it in thy looks, therefore I will speak in confidence between ourselves, and ask this question—What crime has the poor peasant in confinement been guilty off? He proved himself trusty in the moment of danger, and why should he suffer for his fidelity? As a soldier, thyself, canst thou blame him for being attached to the great renowned commander? It is a lamentable thing that there is variance between Temugin, and

the Khan. We will not, however, discuss that subject, whatever we may think about it.

"Behold this! Time is precious. Here are jewels and money; let them speak. They belong not to me; I never possessed half so much; but sentry, though they are not mine, these jewels and money may be quickly thy own."

Before the sentry could reply, the domestic opened the casket, and displayed its contents, saying, "Shall the poor peasant, the hapless captive, shortly die, or will thou open the prison door, and set him free?

"Wilt thou do a good action? A good action alone carries its own reward; but here is weighty treasure, and thou canst besides make a great and powerful friend.

"Notwithstanding what has passed, the daughter of the Khan may sometime hence be seated on the throne, and will not forget those who assisted the captive to escape.

"Sentry dost thou understand me? The poor peasant there confined, did a signal service for her renowned husband."

The sentry hesitated:—"Worthy domestic, wouldst thou have me betray my trust?"

"Brave soldier, wouldst thou be unjust? Wouldst thou be accessory to the faithful peasant's death? Time, for him, too swiftly flies; before another night perhaps he dies. Wouldst thou have his blood upon thy head? Shall he die for his fidelity? Perhaps he has a wife and children dear! I know him not. He may have an aged father; he may have a tender mother to bemoan his fate. He might be his aged parent's sole support; and his sad death might deprive them of all their earthly hopes."

"Stop!" cried the sentry, "let me consider a bit. I have no wife, or children; but I have parents living, a good old father and mother."

Some of the cordial was left. "Drink it up," said the domestic, looking at the prison door. The sentry drank it, and cast his eyes in the same direction. "Fain would I do my duty as a soldier, and act with the feelings of a man."

"Sentry, which will reflect the highest honour, a good man or a good soldier? As a

soldier be faithful and brave; as a man be just and merciful. Do thy duty as a soldier; but forget not mercy.

"Sentry, act thou as a man in this case; and for once, O sentry, forget thou art a soldier. Consider the poor peasant has committed no crime."

There he lies.—
Time swift flies;
Soon he dies.

"No," exclaimed the sentry, in emotion. "No! no!—

It shall not be,
I'll set him free.

"Worthy domestic keep thou the jewels, and give me the money. I would not receive even that, only it comes from one who well can spare it; and to me it may be of some use. I will share it with the captive. Now lend thy hand, and let us quick to work with as little noise as possible."

The sentry put down his arms; and the domestic having brought some implements with

him, they soon softly and gradually opened the prison door.

"Captive, come forth; we are friends."

The captive made no delay; but instantly came forth.

"This is not a time or place for many words," observed the domestic in a low tone of voice, "spare all remarks at present, and cautiously follow me." He immediately led the way, and guided the captive and sentry through some intricate and secret passages, that brought them into the gardens of the palace.

"Still follow me," whispered the domestic, and I will lead you to a place where you may easily scale the walls."

"Go quickly on," softly cried the sentry, "for I have no wish to be caught here. I have left my arms behind, but I do not mean to leave myself behind."

The domestic soon conducted them to the spot; when the sentry having shook his conductor by the hand, quickly clambered over the wall; and the captive, having previously ex-

changed a few words with their conductor, instantly followed his example.

Favoured by the darkness of night, the two fugitives had got to a considerable distance in a short time, and before morning light they were under no great apprehensions of being overtaken by any pursuit from the palace. The domestic remained there, and openly made his appearance at the usual hour, without suspicion from any one; but he had found it a most difficult matter to regain his own apartment unnoticed, and unheard from the gardens.

When the sentry was to have been relieved, he was missing from his post, and a report was made to the officer that he had deserted.

Soon after it was discovered that the door of the late captive's prison had been opened by force, and the captive was gone!

Endeavours were instantly made to ascertain whether the fugitives had succeeded in getting from the palace. A diligent search proved fruitless; no clue could be found to trace their retreat; and it was, therefore, supposed that they must be still concealed somewhere about

the palace; and as the morning advanced, a still more vigilant search was made; but in vain.

It created great surprise that the fugitives should have escaped without occasioning some noise, and attracting attention; but if they had actually got out of the palace during the night watch, there could be no doubt that they had availed themselves of the hours of darkness to continue their flight unobserved; and were in all probability beyond pursuit.

The princess overheard a considerable stir in the palace, and guessed the cause; but remained in suspense about the captive having safely effected his escape from thence, and gotten beyond pursuit. The old officer's daughter likewise heard the noise occasioned by the search after the fugitives; and, like the princess, she remained in a state of suspense.

At length it was known throughout the palace, that the captive peasant had secretly escaped from his place of confinement; it was suspected by the assistance of the sentry; who was missing, and who, it was supposed, must have cautiously explored, and silently guided

the way, and had subsequently become his companion in flight.

This was most grateful news to the princess, as well as to the young lady; and the former now revealed her thoughts to the latter, that the captive peasant was the old officer in disguise.

"Oh! yes, yes," cried the young lady in great agitation; "I feared it was my father, from the glance I caught of him. He may be again seized, if he is discovered." The princess desired her to entertain no apprehensions of that kind, for the old officer was well acquainted with the palace; every outlet was familiar to him; and once freed from confinement, he would not have been long in leaving it behind; as it seemed he escaped during the night watch; and must, therefore, have had several hours of darkness to conceal his flight. If he had remained within the palace, or any where near it, he would, in all probability, have been discovered before then, by means of the diligent search that had been made.

"Restrain thy anxiety and impatience," con-

tinued the princess, "until a fair opportunity occurs of seeing the worthy old domestic; and from him the particulars may be gathered. He will know of course whether the captive was really thy father. I have little doubt of it myself; but still we are not certain. Let it satisfy thee, however, for the present, that the captive has escaped, whether he was thy father or not."

In the course of the day the Khan was made acquainted with what had occurred; but as the prisoner had been reported to him as only a humble peasant, it gave him but little concern; the Khan merely observing that death would have been his portion as a traitor, whether he had been a peasant or a soldier. He, however, desired that more vigilance should be employed for the future; and intimated that if any remissness was discovered, it would be severely felt by those whose duty it was to guard the palace; as he was determined that they should meet with punishment if any neglect on their part was proved.

The young lady was extremely anxious to

see the old domestic who had been instrumental to the release of the captive; but it was late in the evening before she could find an opportunity of meeting with him.

"Few must be my words," said the old domestic, "after what has recently passed through my agency. I am fearful of attracting notice. Let this suffice for the present. The late captive must now have got beyond pursuit." The sentry accompanied him.

"Prepare for a great surprise.

"The captive peasant was thy own father in disguise!!

"No more,—secretly rejoice, and go thy way to the princess, and privately make known what I have stated to thee. Here are the jewels; restore them to her; the money was sufficient.

"Young lady, away from me. Thy father is safe. I congratulate thee.

"Away."

The delighted daughter of the liberated officer hastened to the princess, and joyfully communicated the intelligence she had received from the worthy old domestic. The princess

observed to her, it was a fortunate circumstance that the certain information she had just gained of the captive being her own father, in the disguise of a peasant, was happily coupled with the fact that he was released from captivity, and had gotten clear away.

The young lady acknowledged that she had escaped a heavy load of sorrow, and was most grateful.

"Thy fears, and forebodings, may now cease," resumed the princess; "thy father may be far on the road to rejoin my renowned husband; to whom he will be doubly welcome for the proofs he has given of zeal and fidelity; and for the imminent danger he has undergone for that great leader; but though thy father has happily escaped from captivity, I have a father who is still a captive.

"To insidious counsels my father is a captive; counsels which have already tarnished all the former glory of his long reign, and will fill the remainder of his days with disquietude and alarm. He has made a foe of that illustrious

chief, who gave such splendour to the Tartar arms. He seeks, unjustly seeks, the ruin of him who was ever faithful to his interest; and whose matchless skill, and valour, have so greatly enlarged the Tartar bounds; and forced the neighbouring states to stand in awe of Ung Khan's power.

" Thy great services, O Temugin, my husband, merited a different requital. Who can be secure from malice, and envy, when they launch their poisonous shafts at thee?

" My father, thou hast made him who was thy firmest, ablest friend, an enemy. He who was the best support of thy throne has been forced to take up arms against thee, in his own just defence. And now a far more powerful adversary than Ung Khan ever had to contend with, is arrayed against him. Yes, *He*, whose very name is a host, is now my father's enemy. But a short time, and adverse troops may form in wide array on either side, and fall in fatal strife upon the embattled plain; and make their native country the scene of civil war. Appalling is

the thought; my father and my husband may in hostile combat meet!"

* * * * *

"Suffer me to offer the words of consolation, my dear princess," cried her attendant.

"Alas! what consolation can be afforded me in a case like this?" exclaimed the princess. "Hostilities are preparing between the Khan and Temugin. Indeed, they have already commenced. What was the affray in the palace but the commencement of hostilities?

"An attack was made on Temugin, and his adherents, by force of arms; which they, by force of arms, repelled. Then followed retreat and pursuit. A more extended scope the opposing parties soon will take.

"Temugin is too popular, particularly with the army, to be long without the means of making head against his enemies; and the Khan has numerous bodies of troops in readiness to take the field.

"Under Temugin's standard, though fewer the numbers, the oldest soldiers, the most experienced men, and most skilful officers, will

doubtless range themselves. Under him long since they have borne the toils, and learned the art of war; and for him, their great and skilful leader, they will every danger nobly dare. In early youth they knew him, and for years have witnessed his rising fame. Dear to them is the name of Temugin.

"Yes, my renowned husband is honoured by the hardy veterans. Often have they triumphed under his command, and by his side they still will firmly stand.

"Severe will be the conflict. Numbers here collected by the sovereign authority, and ample resources of the Khan; experience and long-tried valour there, under the skilful guidance of Temugin.

"Either Tartary's lofty throne must fall, or injured Temugin receive a traitor's doom!

"A traitor's doom! I tremble at the thought. What has Temugin done to be branded with a traitor's odious name? Not one amongst all the adherents of Tartary's sovereign lord, a numerous band, could have been more faithful found.

" The wealth, the influence, and the power, of the haughty grandees and dissembling courtiers, who have combined through envy of great Temugin, will be exerted to protect the throne; but will their power, their wealth, their rank, and all the influence they can bring, be able to support it, when injustice with oppressive weight is seated there. The rude shock it shortly must experience, may make it totter to its very base, until at length with a dreadful crash it falls!

" O Ung Khan, my father, where then wilt thou be? Too late thou wilt mourn the evils thou hast brought upon thyself. Thy fate is involved in the approaching contest with my husband.

" Soon the thundering storm will roar. The loud, hollow, dismal sound, will be heard throughout this wide extended realm. To Tartary's remotest corners it will spread. Civil war's ferocious demon will swell the furious blast, until it rends the skies.

" All wars are dreadful, but civil war calls forth the most ferocious of the demons to pre-

side; and with blood-stained wings the ruthless storm to guide. I think I can foresee our spacious plains with native blood o'erspread, and death's dark shade thick settling on the warriors' heads.

"Ye Genii, ye guardians of the wise and brave, in that dread hour protect my husband; shield injured Temugin from his powerful and malignant foes. In the battle's heat ward off the winged arrows that in clouds will fly.

"May the flaming sword, when wrathful brandished at his head, be shivered in the empty air, or miss the vengeful aim.

"May Temugin as heretofore, in other wars, victorious prove, and mercy blend with victory in the present contest.

"Oh! that the rage of civil war might my father from destruction spare. His own acts of injustice have stained his former glory, and if he lives he must henceforth with feebler lustre shine."

* * * * *

When Mangu's delirious fit was over, he fell into a long and sound sleep, which greatly

refreshed him; the irritation of his wound was considerably allayed; and being now convinced that it was by no means dangerous, as he at first apprehended, he became more composed; though still much chagrined, and disappointed at Temugin's escape.

The remissness in not closely following up the fugitive leader, and his adherents, seemed to Mangu as reprehensible as the indecision and tardiness, which had enabled them to retire from the palace without loss, in defiance of superior numbers. With respect to himself, he was determined to be cautious for the future not to rush amongst the foremost to seize a daring foe. Let others fight, and he would counsel.

Let others, who have embraced the profession of arms, thought Mangu, exert themselves in displaying their courage and prowess, when occasion calls. Let them prove themselves worthy of their profession by their actions. I covet not the honour of wounds and scars; I have no taste for them. War is not my pro-

vince. To my cunning and address, I would rather trust.

The Khan has plenty of troops; abundance to take the field; and as soon as I recover, I will advise the most prompt and vigorous operations against Temugin. He must be hemmed in on every side. No time must be allowed for the insurgent banner to be openly raised, and draw together insurrection's daring crew.

The great renowned Temugin, as his friends were wont to call him, has been obliged to fly from hence, if he never fled before; and hither the Mogul adventurer must not return. He may, however, give much trouble yet; but it is strange to me if he ever regains his former influence and power.

Mangu here fell into a profound reverie, from which he was suddenly startled by the sound of a person falling asleep upon the floor of the apartment. It was his attendant who had been overcome by drowsiness; and as Mangu did not recollect at the moment the circumstance of this person being there, he was himself greatly amazed

at first, by the noise of the fall. He now in an angry voice desired him to retire.

"The night watch has been set upwards of three hours," drawled out the drowsy attendant, hardly yet come to his senses; though roused from his sleep by the fall.

"I asked not about the night watch," resumed Mangu in a sterner tone, "but told you to retire. Seek some other place, rather than my apartment, to indulge in sleep."

The angry tone of his lord soon brought the attendant to a perfect recollection, and, making a humble apology, he retired.

"As that sleepy drone remained here so late," muttered Mangu to himself," "I might as well have made him stay with me until the midnight hour was over; but it is no matter, I feel myself in a mending state. One more good sleep will recruit me, and then I shall be able to exert myself, and stimulate more active proceedings against Temugin. It will never do to be supine whilst he is at large. Incessant pursuit is necessary to prevent him from collecting forces. He should be continually harassed to

that degree, as to leave him no alternative but surrender, or precipitate flight from the territories of the Khan.

If he, who was once the chief commander of our troops, escapes with his life, let him at least be compelled to wander an exile in foreign lands, without the means to give disturbance to us here. An object of pity he might be to some, to me he would only be an object of scorn, for aspiring above grandees, to high hereditary rank, and honours born. We cannot, will not, brook adventurers above us.

The moment Mangu had finished the latter reflection, the solemn voice was heard again, in loud and solemn tones, that made him tremble, as they sounded through the stillness of the night.

Through base intrigue and perfidy,
Great Temugin was forc'd to fly;
But Temugin may yet return,
And make the treach'rous Mangu mourn.
'Tis thou an object art of scorn,
Spite of thy claim to honours born.

The chief renowned, who lately fled,
Again will raise his mighty head:
Let those who injur'd him beware,
His just resentment may not spare
The authors of the secret snare.
Hear this, and tremble, haughty lord:—
"Dread Temugin's avenging sword!"

The guilty courtier was almost overwhelmed with consternation at the portentous words which had just been pronounced by the awful solemn voice. They seemed to imply that the malignant schemes he had formed would end in his own destruction; and the thought was dreadful to his mind.

END OF VOL. II.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY MUNRO AND CONGREVE, 26, DUKE STREET,
LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

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Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 15 March, 2016